THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 3
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Muhlenberg rises up

Students travel to New York City to participate in the global climate strikes.

see collage on 4

Photo Courtesy of Maura O'Reilly

Kalie Jamieson '20, Elena Yingling '23, Audrey Morton '22, event organizer Karla Sagastizado '21 and Cydney Wilson '23 strike with EnAct on Sept. 20.

NEWS
Muhlenberg held a Health and Wellness Fair in Seegers Union on Friday. The fair showcased resources from across the Lehigh Valley.
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ARTS & CULTURE
The fifth annual West End World of Food Festival brought the Lehigh Valley community together to taste some yummy cuisine from various cultures and local vendors.
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Ella Bruck / The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED
Em Panetta '20 provides their frustrations with and insights on Muhlenberg's claims of continued action towards more gender-neutral restrooms on Muhlenberg's campus.
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SPORTS
Chris Richards '23 comes from a long line Muhlenberg soccer players. Now it is his time to shine, and he is certainly making the family proud.
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Two fraternities return to campus

By Cydney Wilson
Contributing Writer

In August, Muhlenberg announced the decision to allow two fraternities, Alpha Epsilon Pi and Phi Kappa Tau, to return to campus. The former has already accepted new members this semester, and the latter will be returning to campus in the spring semester. The college is also in conversation about bringing Alpha Phi Alpha, a historically black fraternity, to campus.

"This expansion, to some extent, was also focused on further diversifying our system," explained Dean of Students Allison Gulati.

Steve Dutton, the Associate Director for Student Engagement, Clubs & Organizations and Fraternity & Sorority Life, explained the process of introducing fraternity expansion to the college.

"With the removal of one fraternal organization during the fall 2017 semester, I was quickly approached by students with an interest in organizing a new fraternity," said Dutton. "Late in the spring semester of 2018, a survey went out to all rising sophomores, juniors and seniors. Of the approximately 1,600 students that received the survey, 536 students responded, with 68 percent in favor of fraternity expansion. This included feedback and support across all gender identities and affiliated and unaffiliated members for the fraternity and sorority community."

In the survey, students listed a variety of reasons for supporting the expansion, such as community building, more philanthropic service opportunities and an increase in Greek life diversity.

Dutton also detailed the process of determining which fraternities would be returning to campus.

> **"Both of these organizations have... a strong alumni base to offer guidance and support..."**

"Invitations were sent to 10 fraternities that were either previously recognized on campus [or] have a strong historical and national reputation to apply for recognition," he said. "Of those 10 invitations, seven fraternities submitted application materials. The Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee narrowed down that list of applicants from seven to five organizations. During the spring of 2019, all five of those organizations came to campus for a day-long interview, meeting with faculty, staff and students. After the interviews, the Fraternity and Sorority Life Committee comprised of faculty, staff and students evaluated each of the fraternities' written materials and in-person interviews."

Some of the factors that the fraternities were evaluated on include risk prevention efforts, financial membership obligations, diversity in membership and community engagement.

Alpha Epsilon Pi, a Jewish fraternity, and Phi Kappa Tau were eventually chosen to return for a variety of reasons.

"Both of these organizations have been represented on campus in the past. Both of these organizations have strong international organizations and a strong alumni base to offer guidance and support for the undergraduate members," said Dutton. "As a historically and culturally Jewish organization, Alpha Epsilon Pi provides an additional opportunity for students [who are interested] in the Jewish culture and/or identify as a member of the Jewish community to join a life-long values-based organization. Phi Kappa Tau, in addition to excelling in all areas of the evaluation, provide a lower introductory cost than any of the other organizations that were in consideration. Offering cost-effective opportunities for growth to our students is a high priority. Phi Kappa Tau can do that."

This will not be Phi Kappa Tau's first time on campus. Muhlenberg's initial chapter was the seventh oldest in the country and was chartered in 1914. PKT was removed from campus for the first time in 1994, with Jeff Gelman reporting in The Muhlenberg Weekly on the reasoning. The fraternity lost their charter for three years as a result of supposed hazing and incidents of underage drinking. In one reported hazing incident, a member of Campus Safety reported seeing "a group of guys doing squat thrusts at four in the morning."

In 1998, after all of the original members of Phi Kappa Tau had graduated, the fraternity was rechartered at the college. However, it was removed again in 2013 after another hazing incident, this one involving food, in which a student had to be taken to the hospital.

At the time, College President Peyton Randolph Helm released a statement saying, "I'm disappointed that Muhlenberg had to pull recognition from PKT,

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, September 16
Welfare Check - 7:34 a.m.
Report to locate student in East Hall 2nd floor, no further incident

Burglary - 12:00 p.m.
Report of theft of wallet in Moyer Hall, item located, investigation will continue

Assault - 2:30 p.m.
Report of assault in Prosser Hall, individuals identified and spoken to, investigation will continue

Property Damage - 11:22 p.m.
Report of broken window in Benfer Hall, investigation will continue

Fire Alarm - 11:50 p.m.
Report of fire alarm from shower steam in Martin Luther, system reset

Tuesday, September 17
Suspicious Person - 4:50 p.m.
Report of suspicious person at Alpha Chi Omega house, area checked and nothing noted

Wednesday, September 18
Sick Student - 6:34 a.m.
Report of sick student in Prosser Hall, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety

Harassment - 11:45 a.m.
Report of harassment in Seegers Union, individual identified and spoken to, no further incident

Thursday, September 19
Theft - 10:10 a.m.
Bicycle theft at 319 North 22nd street, no suspects at this time

Injured Student - 6:15 p.m.
Report of injured student at Life Sports Center, MCEMS responded and student refused treatment

Friday, September 20
Found Property - 10:09 p.m.
Report of found guitar in Trexler Library, item placed in lost & found

Saturday, September 21
Terroristic Threats - 1:00 a.m.
Report of on-campus terroristic threats, individual identified and spoken to, investigation to continue

Hit & Run - 3:13 p.m.
Report of hit & run on Chew Street, damage to motorcycle. Allentown PD reported too

Injured Student - 4:54 p.m.
Report of injured student at Life Sports Center, MCEMS responded and student refused treatment

Sunday, September 22
Theft - 1:43 a.m.
Report of theft of chair in Benfer Hall, investigation to continue

Suspicious Activity - 2:07 a.m.
Report of suspicious activity on Liberty & 22nd street, investigation to continue

Injured Visitor - 11:08 a.m.
Report of injured visitor at Egner Memorial Chapel, MCEMS & AEMS responded and transported individual

Sick Student - 6:33 p.m.
Report of sick student in Martin Luther, MCEMS responded and student refused treatment

Found Property - 10:39 p.m.
Report of found phone in Seegers Union, phone placed in lost & found

College fair promotes healthy living amidst return of "Muhlenplague"

By Ella Bruck
Contributing Writer

As the fourth week of classes comes to a close, the "Muhlenplague" has struck campus yet again. Every year, Muhlenberg experiences what students would call a "plague," where mass numbers from the student body fall ill. This is typically an extremely busy time of year for the Health Center, where students are coming in with "mostly URI [Upper Respiratory Infection] symptoms, including headache, fever, runny nose and cough," said Kelly Powell, a nurse at the Health Center.

The reason for this "plague" hitting 'Berg year after year, Powell explained, is due to communal living and sharing spaces with lots of students, in addition to various ranges of susceptibility that students have to illness.

In efforts to promote all the Health Center and surrounding Allentown community does to ensure the student body's health and safety, the College held a Health and Wellness Fair, which took place on Friday, Sept. 13. The fair showcased resources from across the Lehigh Valley, including the Allentown Health Bureau, Fuel the Fire, Turning Point, the Juvenile Probation Department, the Crime Victims Counsel, nurses from the Lehigh Valley Health Network and many more.

"Health habits are up to the individual, but [the college is] good at educating and warning students and providing proper supplies and services."

"Health habits are up to the individual," said Christian Nemeh '22, "but [the college is] good at educating and warning students and providing proper supplies and services."

Students had the opportunity to educate themselves on ways to keep healthy, as well as meet members from the surrounding Allentown community. A number of organizations partner with the college to provide resources, classes and services for students throughout the academic year.

Jilly Lissner '21 felt that the fair was a "really great way for the Muhlenberg and Allentown community to come together and support all aspects of health."

With a rising number of students getting sick, the fair seemed to come at an appropriate time; however, many students were unaware of what the Health Fair was prior to Friday. One of those students was Sam Rothstein '21, who experienced the fair for the first time. Rothstein "didn't know of all the resources near campus" and now feels that every student should stop by to learn more about how to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Gender neutral bathrooms added around campus

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Becca Baitel
Contributing Writer

In the past year, gender-neutral restrooms have been added in the Life Sports Center, Walz Hall and Moyer Hall. Gender-neutral restrooms are also located in the Multicultural Center, Hillel, Seegers Union and other locations across campus, and the administration plans to assign more in the future.

"It's definitely an issue that needs to be addressed in every single building on Muhlenberg's property," said Em Panetta '20. "Yes, these changes are great and should be celebrated, but being able to use the restroom comfortably and safely is something that is beyond basic. These changes are great and I appreciate the effort, but right now, I just want actual, significant change."

"We talk about equity and inclusion, and we must act on it. We all have personal needs and there should not be segregated bathrooms, as we must ensure the environment is inclusive for all identities."

Organizations such as Students for Queer Advocacy (S.Qu.Ad) and the Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC) have advocated for gender inclusion and have helped spread awareness. MTAC has done copious work to get gender neutral bathrooms on campus, as well as encouraging the acceptance and visibility of all gender identities. Both of these groups meet in the Multicultural Center and are open to everyone in the college community, regardless of gender identity or sexuality.

Robin Riley-Casey, Director of Multicultural Life, emphasizes the need for gender inclusion in all aspects at Muhlenberg, including gender-neutral housing and education about these topics.

"We talk about equity and inclusion, and we must act on it," said Riley-Casey. "We all have personal needs and there should not be segregated bathrooms, as we must ensure the environment is inclusive for all identities."

She also believes that although the community is still looking at ways to introduce gender neutral restrooms to students, faculty and alumni, she sees the campus becoming more gender inclusive as a whole.

Until 2011, all bathrooms at Muhlenberg were gender designated, with the exception of bathrooms in suites and apartments. However, The Office of Housing and Residence Life has worked to spread awareness about the availability of gender-inclusive bathrooms in residence halls, particularly with the addition of one in Walz Hall. The renovation projects in Seegers Union and East Hall included gender-neutral restrooms as well.

"There has been a full committee made up of faculty, staff and students at the College who have worked on the gender inclusive restroom project and that group will continue to look at additional building priorities for the coming year," explained Allison Gulati, Dean of Students. The administration says they have also established a process for students who wish to change their preferred name. "The Registrar will work with any student who wishes to seek out this change so that it becomes official in all of our on-campus systems."

"There are more plans for the future to continue the committee's work and continue to improve access for all students in all spaces," said Katie Shelley, Associate Director of Housing Operations. "It is important that all members of the Muhlenberg community have access to bathrooms they feel safe and comfortable in."

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especially since I overturned the fraternity's suspension six years ago and gave them another chance. Unfortunately, the brothers have, over the past several years, repeatedly violated College policy and Pennsylvania law forbidding hazing — even [after] many promises to end hazing and even after the brothers had the law explained to them and signed a pledge that they would abide by it...We simply cannot recognize an organization with a history of putting our students at risk."

Dutton explained how fraternity housing will be organized with the return of the two new organizations.

"Social Greek Organizations and housing are perceived to go hand-in-hand, but that's not always the case," said Dutton. "As of today, there is no timeline set to provide housing for either organization. Phi Kappa Tau does already own property on campus, the Hillside House. However, that's currently leased to college and will remain that way for the foreseeable future."

Jacob Halpern '22 is a new member of AEPi and explained why he chose to rush that fraternity.

"I decided to rush AEPi over any of the other fraternities on campus, including the other Jewish fraternity ZBT, because I thought this was my best opportunity to leave a positive lasting impact on the Muhlenberg community and social life on campus," said Halpern. "Last year I was not sure I was going to rush, but right when I heard AEPi was coming back to campus, I got very excited. Having the opportunity to be one of the founding class members of a new Jewish fraternity was convincing for me."

While the college has undertaken a fraternity expansion, Dutton explained why Muhlenberg is not looking to add any more sororities to campus.

"I think it's important to note that processes for adding social Greek letter organizations vary greatly depending on their national affiliation," says Dutton. "[North American Interfraternity Conference] organizations, of which our Interfraternity Council (IFC) fraternities are members of, have very different processes to allow for expansion. Our Collegiate Panhellenic Council sororities, a part of the National Panhellenic Conference, have their own set of policies related to expansion... which does not allow for Muhlenberg to add any sororities at this time. Similarly, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is a member of the National Panhellenic Council, which, like the other umbrella organizations, has a different set of guidelines and policies for expansion."

In regards to the potentially historic move of bringing Alpha Phi Alpha to campus Greek life, Dutton said: "The conversations remain extremely positive between the organization and the College and I'm hopeful that we will soon recognize Muhlenberg College's first historically black fraternity on our campus."

Additional reporting for this article was done by Melissa Reph, Managing Editor.

Clockwise from left: Brianna Nemet '20, Alison Stouffer '20, Marta Rardin '20, Ian Adler '20, Celia Bowers '21, Eva Nelson '20, Bridget Cantor '20, Julia Termine '20 and Giselle Soto '22.

Eva Nelson '20, Julia Termine '20 and Mimi Salters '20 display signs at NYC climate strike.

"Not only did I feel the inexplicable feeling one gets when they know they are on the right side of history as I marched at the NYC climate strike, but I also felt as though I had entered a space which was extending its arms to me as well as an inviting me to further learn about and act upon the ongoing crisis of climate change."

- Kyra Dates '22

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"Without music, life would be a blank to me."

- Jane Austen

Playing with space and boundaries:

Artist Ronny Quevedo presents exhibition on campus

By Alana Noehrenberg
Staff Writer

The opening reception for artist Ronny Quevedo's exhibition, "Space of Play, Play of Space," was held in the Martin Art Gallery in the Baker Center for the Arts on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Quevedo's work is primarily on display in the Martin Art Gallery; however, there is also a field-sized drawing on the lawn adjacent to the Trexler Library on campus. Visitors are encouraged to directly engage with the work by walking on the field.

Alana Noehrenberg / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Artist Ronny Quevedo shows off his artistic skills in his exhibit in The Martin Art Gallery.

"I was always drawing when I was a kid."

Quevedo is an internationally recognized artist. His work has been exhibited at a variety of different locations, including The Whitney Museum of Art, the Queens Museum, and The Bronx Museum of the Arts, among others. Quevedo has also achieved numerous recognitions for his art, including the 2017 Blade of Grass Fellowship for Socially Engaged Art and the 2016 Queen Museum/Jerome Foundation Fellowships for Emerging Arts, as well as being published in "Hyperallergic" and "Art Forum."

Students, faculty and community members attended the opening reception. Light refreshments were served; attendees spent their time mingling, snacking and looking at the exhibition. The pieces on display exemplified Quevedo's mastery of various materials. The artwork in the exhibition was aesthetically situated in the gallery area to allow for plenty of room for attendees to gather around and discuss various pieces.

"I was always drawing when I was a kid," said Quevedo. "If I didn't get a specific toy or something that I wanted, I would just make it out of cardboard or draw it myself. As a kid, I was always working on things, and slowly I was able to develop it and go to school in New York for art and do my undergrad at Cooper Union. I think I was always interested in creating things out of rare or different objects. I get to invent and reinvent over and over and use different materials. It doesn't get boring."

Quevedo's father was a professional soccer player in Ecuador. When his family came to the United States, Quevedo's father became a referee for amateur soccer leagues.

"I would travel with him and visit a whole bunch of sites all the time, so I got a really different sense of sports through that interaction," said Quevedo.

"It wasn't just about competitive nature. There was also a social structure around it — people playing games, joining teams, eating specific types of foods — turning it into a ritual. That is where my connection to sports comes into play. It's also a way of looking at how these borders can be renegotiated: thinking about sharing things with people. This international game of soccer, for example, is one that is not necessarily limited by borders, yet at times is informed by the borders that these countries represent."

"It wasn't just about competitive nature. There was also a social structure around it..."

Muhlenberg students Jenny Moretti '22 and Katrina Ussia '22 attended the reception. "It has been cool trying to do The Method [an analytical technique used to comprehend texts] on the artwork, like trying to find strands. We started off with listing the various materials we saw in the pieces, like wood, tape and foil," said Moretti, "and then Katrina noticed the athletic aspects in the first piece to the left."

"I noticed a field," said Ussia. Moretti and Ussia found it intriguing that imagery of fields and boundaries were present in most of the works on display in the gallery.

Quevedo's exhibition is a compilation of various works that he has created over the past seven years. "These are works that are generally connected through the role of sports or playing fields," explained Quevedo. "When I got the opportunity for this exhibition, I decided to pick a few of them that would make the most sense together."

"Hopefully, it is not our differences that separate us, but that bring us together."

Mirna Trauger, an assistant professor of Spanish at Muhlenberg, asked her students to attend the exhibition opening of "Space of Play, Play of Space" because of Quevedo's Latin American descent and his exploration of the interplay between spaces and their meanings.

Examining one of Quevedo's pieces, Trauger said, "I see two sides divided by a border down the middle that are very similar but somewhat diverse as well. It makes me think of the similar humanity on both sides of our border. We have so many things in common, yet we are different; hopefully, it is not our differences that separate us, but that bring us together."

"Space and Play, Play and Space" will be on display in the Martin Art Gallery and on the lawn near the Trexler Library through Nov. 2. Quevedo will give an artist talk on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 7:00 pm in the Recital Hall in the Baker Center for the Arts as part of the Center for Ethics 2019-2020's *Borders, Nationalisms, Identities: The Ethics of Global Citizenship* program.

Allentown's West End World of Food Festival:
Strengthening cultural bonds in the community

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Members of the Lehigh Valley community taste foods from all over the world at this year's West End World of Food Festival.

By Danny Milkis
Contributing Writer

The Allentown community is rich and vibrant with diversity, and a number of dynamic and unique celebrations have sprung up over the course of the past few years to celebrate the multitude of unique backgrounds and cultures, which work to further enrich the many important cultural facets of the Lehigh Valley.

This past weekend marked the fifth annual celebration of Allentown's West End World of Food Festival, which attracted a large number of visitors and vendors from all across the area. Many were small businesses looking to promote an aspect of their culture through their culinary traditions. The event featured a number of food trucks and tents, with dishes from Latin America, Asia, Africa and beyond.

From noon until 11 pm on Saturday, Sept. 21, Liberty Street and 19th Street were aglow with the sights and smells of a vibrant array of all types of cuisine from all across the globe, and featured everything from assorted varieties and interpretations of the classic burger-and-fries combo to more exotic foods, such as specialty meats from Jamaica.

Food wasn't all that was featured in this jam-packed festival, however. The West End World of Food Festival had an astonishing amount of support from local businesses. Everything from privately owned insurance agencies and law firms to appliance and technology stores to realtors' offices and beauty salons in the area, among numerous others, came out to proudly support the community as friends and allies of the ever-growing diversity awareness movement in Allentown.

Bang Cookies, run by husband-and-wife duo Tammy and Steve Carter, was one of a number of businesses that truly got to witness the power of a group of people coming together to celebrate the gift of diversity within the Lehigh Valley region.

"At first we weren't sure what we were getting ourselves into," says Tammy Carter. "But as the day went on, it was pleasant to see so many friendly faces and to meet so many interesting people. This event is definitely something special."

The event featured a number of food trucks and tents, with dishes from Latin America, Asia, Africa and beyond.

The Carters explained that they usually just focus on the business aspect, seeing as how they are trying to grow and expand their pool of interested customers, but this festival was the first time they've felt truly immersed in the event as a whole, and felt as if they were part of a huge family.

This was prevalent in talking to a number of the other vendors as well. All of them seemed to describe a certain "magic" surrounding Allentown's West End World of Food Festival.

Another first-time vendor at the festival was Marie Reiner, of The Bake-A-Re, who was sharing her baked goods with the community along with her husband.

"I'm so thrilled to see so many people of all ages and from all backgrounds enjoying the same food," she explained. "I've always felt a kind of charm surrounding a good meal, and today gives me hope that it may just be the catalyst we need to ensure a safer, healthier Allentown in years to come."

Marie also highlighted the star attraction of the day: the live music acts that graced the stage to entertain a dense crowd of entertained onlookers. "The fact that we can all enjoy this music together," continued Reiner, "Well, it just doesn't get any better than that. It just goes to show that no matter where we come from or where we're going, music can be enjoyed by every single person in this town together. Music levels the playing field, and it's something that just makes an already terrific opportunity that much more terrific."

If given the opportunity in the coming weeks and months, keep an eye out for even more cultural celebrations, and remember that each person who attends works to enrich the community by benefiting the variety of small businesses that represent the melting pot in Allentown.

Artist of the week: Gelb strives for success

By Brianna Kovit
Contributing Writer

Brittany Gelb '21, a native of Allentown, has been practicing musical instruments for 11 years. On campus, she has played the violin for the chamber orchestra, the choir and the wind ensemble. This semester, Gelb is dedicating her time to the viola da gamba as part of the historical music group Collegium Musicum.

"I love the collaborative aspect of playing with other people and the challenge of learning new music and improving my technique."

Upon speaking with Gelb, it was clear that she is someone driven by a desire to accomplish and a motivation to succeed. She is always looking for her next challenge. Unsurprisingly, taking up a new "challenge" was how she found herself in the world of music.

"There was a program in my elementary school where you could choose to play any band or string instrument," said Gelb. "When I was trying to choose an instrument to play, somebody said that the violin is the hardest instrument to learn...I wanted a challenge."

Indeed, it was a challenge conquered. Gelb's proudest musical achievement was a result of a years-long goal. As a middle schooler, she told herself that she would learn to play Hillary Hahn's Mendelssohn Violin Concerto before high school graduation. Fast forward several years, at a school concert three days before graduation, Gelb successfully played the piece. After experiencing that pride and satisfaction, Gelb pushed herself to keep succeeding and keep accomplishing.

Her next musical challenge? Collegium Musicum.

Collegium Musicum specializes in music of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. Gelb began learning the viola da gamba, a renaissance instrument, during her freshman year at 'Berg. Since then, she has advanced to playing the instrument as part of the special historical group.

Gelb described the group as a "very relaxed kind of musical group...It is pretty unique because of its historical performance."

The ensemble meets to practice once a week. Gelb stated that collaborating with her peer musicians is her favorite aspect of the musical experience.

"I love the collaborative aspect of playing with other people and the challenge of learning new music and improving my technique."

The group is currently preparing for their concert set for Nov. 9 in the Egner Chapel. Gelb, as well as the entirety of the Muhlenberg Collegium Musicum group, is very excited and highly anticipating the performance.

Her next musical challenge? Collegium Musicum.

When Gelb is not learning new music with Collegium, she is challenging herself as a mathematics major. At surface level, this is seemingly unrelated to her musical passion. However, Gelb believes that music and math share several meanings and qualities in her life.

"Both math and music demand a kind of mental persistence," said Gelb. "Often with math, it takes a very long time to understand a hard problem or gain insight about some mathematical concept. The same thing is true of practicing music in any sense."

Photo Courtesy of Brittany Gelb

Brittany Gelb '21 shares her musical talents on the violin.

Muhlenberg College
Theatre & Dance

2019-2020 Season

NEW VOICES | NEW VISIONS '19
NOV 20-24 A FESTIVAL OF ORIGINAL & STUDENT-DIRECTED PLAYS
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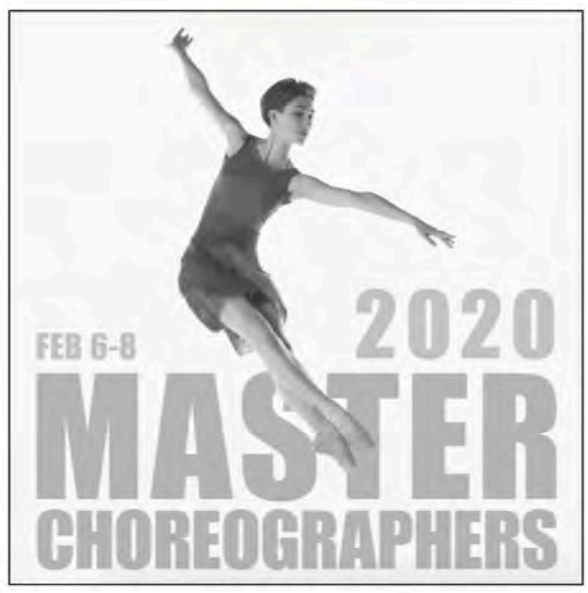

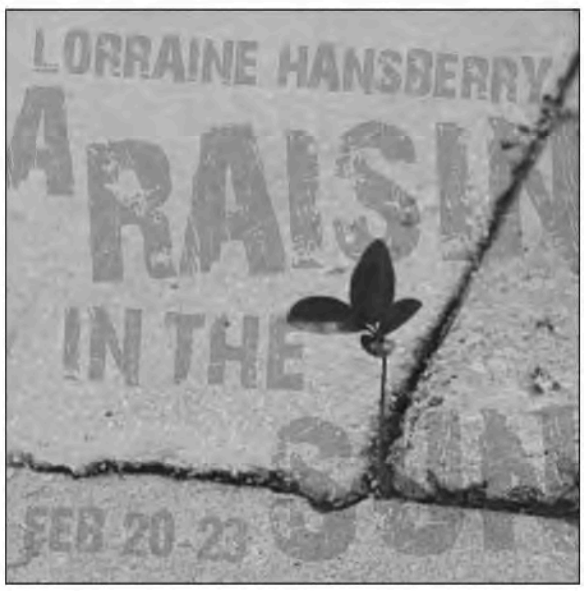

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Stop killing the messenger

On Aug. 28, Greta Thunberg, just 16 years old, set foot on New York City soil. Opting not to travel by plane in order to embody her message of limiting our reliance on fossil fuels, she sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in a zero-emissions yacht for a two-week-long voyage that reflected her commitment to climate change activism.

Since her arrival in New York City, Thunberg has been taking the world by storm. This inspired an International Climate Strike last Saturday, Sept. 24, leading over four million people around the globe to take to the streets and demand action against climate change. Her movement culminated in a passionate speech at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in NYC on Monday.

But while Thunberg has managed to spark outrage and activism, the criticism that has followed her carries echoes of the past — a past filled with institutions and those in power ridiculing climate change activists like Thunberg for being blunt in their rhetoric about how dire the state of the planet really is.

It happened to Rachel Carson, the environmentalist and author of *Silent Spring*, in 1962, when she opened our eyes to the harm of filling the planet with pesticides like DDT.

Carson was taken seriously and her work was respected. But she was also vilified and humiliated by those threatened by her message. Former Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson called her a "spinster" and noted that she was "probably a communist." And an executive of the American Cyanamid Company warned that "if man were to faithfully follow the teachings of Miss Carson we would return to the Dark Ages, and the insects and diseases and vermin would once again inherit the earth."

So it's no surprise that Thunberg was personally attacked as well. Following her fiery speech to world leaders, exclaiming that "we are in the beginning of a mass extinction and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth," President Donald Trump mocked her passion and her enthusiasm, sarcastically tweeting that "She seems like a very happy young girl looking forward to a bright and wonderful future. So nice to see!" Michael Knowles, a guest speaker on Fox News, called her "a mentally ill Swedish child."

With decades in between Carson and Thunberg, the tactic remains the same. It is easier to attack the messenger than to actually confront the message. But these attacks don't change the message itself — or its paramount urgency.

The climate is changing, and in the words of Thunberg, "I am just a messenger, and yet I get all this hate. I am not saying anything new, I am just saying what scientists have repeatedly said for decades... since almost no one is doing anything, and our very future is at risk, we feel like we have to continue."

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

I have to pee. And Muhlenberg better pay attention.

By Em Panetta
Contributing Writer

You read that correctly. I really have to pee. The gender-neutral restrooms on campus — or, more accurately, the lack thereof — are to blame. As a genderqueer trans student at Muhlenberg, I spent my first three years quiet and careful, bending to the binary when needed. But I'm through with being the one who's accommodating. I'm done being quiet.

Last fall, I was quoted in an article for The Weekly about 'Berg's struggle to provide gender-neutral restrooms on campus; almost a year later, I'm writing this op-ed on exactly the same topic. Why hasn't this issue been resolved? Where is the progress?

According to an email sent to students on Aug. 22, there has been progress at Muhlenberg. Dean Gulati shared, "We continue to expand the number of gender inclusive restrooms," listing the Life Sports Center, Moyer and Walz as specific sites of change, and attaching a link to a "full map of inclusive restrooms." "Continue," as Dean Gulati puts it, is an active verb, indicating an ongoing process. Yet to a nonbinary student who actively needs to find a restroom on campus, this "continued" expansion is so painstakingly slow that it's almost nonexistent. This letter and its contents, while a welcome update of 'Berg's progress, cannot be the only means of communicating such change. When this is the only physical progress mentioned to students, we see nothing more than a feigned gesture of inclusivity designed to stroke the ego of an administration whose barely-there allyship is not meeting the needs of the students they promised to serve.

I want to take a moment to discuss the "full map of gender inclusive restrooms" mentioned in the letter. The attached link brings up 'Berg's online campus map, which lists all campus-owned buildings with at least one gender-neutral restroom. Yet here's the kicker: there is absolutely no information about where to actually find the restrooms once inside the doors. Considering the sizes of the buildings in question, the map is about as useful as a flashlight on the sun.

Moreover, the buildings on this list are largely homes converted for college use — the Office of Communication, Multicultural Center, Global Education, Gabriel House and Hoffman House. Due to the construction and layout of the homes, these bathrooms are gender-inclusive by default. It is not so progressive to claim gender neutrality in spaces that were never designed to accommodate a public binary. Such low-effort changes shouldn't take years to materialize. Something as simple as hanging a sign is all that I and other nonbinary students see from the administration; even if there are truly larger efforts behind the scenes, such details remain hidden from our view, only sending us signals of apathy.

If they truly are "continuing" to make these changes, then those who are directly affected by this service must be part of the conversation, not only for our own peace of mind, but to avoid unusable maps and other missteps as well. If every student at 'Berg truly does matter, then unacceptable treatment of even one member undermines the entire student body, reflecting poorly on the administration and Muhlenberg at large. The character of the college is best shown not through doing what's most convenient for the greatest number of students, but for making the sometimes inconvenient or difficult changes that will most benefit a small group.

Only two of the buildings listed in the letter are part of the suite of academic spaces at 'Berg, and they sit on opposite ends of academic row. For someone who needs to pee while trying to earn their education, this is a major problem. What makes this even more frustrating is that, speaking from experience, academic row is actually the most accessible area on campus in terms of the availability of gender neutral bathrooms, and as students, we are much more likely to spend our time in class buildings than in administrative buildings.

If students like me have the (nearly-inevitable) misfortune of taking a class that's not held in New Sci or Moyer, there's no quick bathroom break during lab, no emergency in the middle of class, no pit stop between back-to-back lectures. When I leave for class each morning, I pray that I've planned accordingly to make it to the next neutral space, and then I pray that my body doesn't have any gastrointestinal surprises planned. Every time I leave my dorm room, I know that if I get sick, if I've drunk too much water or if my breakfast isn't sitting well, then I will be faced with a choice between missing out on the education I pay so much to have or risking my health.

Cis[gender] privilege is not having these concerns. It's this very privilege that I expect Muhlenberg's administration to mitigate, especially because they state that they are committed to continued change. According to 'Berg's Diversity Strategic Plan, the school aims to create a campus "supportive of inclusion" such that it "actively" recruits and retains students of "historically underrepresented groups," in part by adding gender-neutral restrooms. The Plan "proposes the creation and/or identification of gender neutral bathrooms" and states that "we support costing out this initiative to include such bathrooms." Looking closely, support of this initiative is for "costing out" and simple "identification" of restrooms, not making strides of tangible change. Once again, I must press, where is the progress? As it stands now, this portion of the Plan reads as bureaucratic jargon, not concrete action. Cost analysis and identification are passive at best, simply acknowledging an issue without finding solutions. While I don't claim to know the inner workings of higher education or the moves necessary to create the change for which I'm demanding, I know the importance of semantics. I have no doubts that the words here were chosen with the utmost care, and actionless change is not change at all, no matter how sweetly it's framed.

The plan goes on, saying that the school "proposes adding the option of gender neutral bathrooms in any building with more than two bathrooms, as well as considering adding additional bathrooms to buildings." Currently, "the subcommittee supports this concept in principle, while recognizing that there are logistical issues to be resolved." I have the following response to the subcommittee: thank you, in principle, for your support, but I, too, would like to recognize that there are issues — issues of dignity, of respect, of inclusion, diversity and equity — to be resolved. Ultimately, the most glaring issue here is your lack of progress.

Supporting something "in principle" is not enough. Allyship is active. It is making change, it is pushing forward, it is being unsatisfied with 'how things are now,' even if the 'now' in question is marginally better than the now of yesterday. "Recognizing" logistical issues is not the same as solving them. Not only is allyship active, it is also work. The labor cannot only be done by the "marginalized groups" the school claims to serve. We need more than recognition and support. We need action.

The administration must do better for its students. If 'Berg truly "strongly believe[s] that diversity is essential to learning and to our success as a pluralistic community," as its mission statement claims, then those in power must create and sustain action. Supporting the concept of gender neutral restrooms is not enough. Especially not when I still have to pee.

Author's stated pronouns are they/them/theirs.

Daily dose of optimism

Helping to forget the stress of the world

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

In this day and age, we are more connected than ever, but not to each other — to our phones. Sometimes it feels like there's nothing good left in this world. No one can deny that the days of blissful ignorance are gone and in their place has come a whole lot of stress. But it doesn't always have to be this way! That is why I am going to be doling out a daily dose of optimism on my online zine www.happyguysmiles4you.com where every day I'm going to be posting a little spark of positivity to help you relax, even if it's just for a second. You'll also notice that on the site are a couple spots where you donate as much as you want to help me keep bringing my positivity to you. Before we get started, I have to give a big thanks to The Muhlenberg Weekly for letting me use their platform for my first prescription of optimism; you'll be able to follow the rest on my website. So here it is, the very first dose of optimism to get you away from all the stresses of the world.

Stop and smell the roses because nature brightens your day!

And that's all it takes to forget for just a second. No reason to think about injustices, hate or the environment. Oh yeah, the environment; I guess you should value nature sooner rather than later because the planet is deteriorating at such a rapid pace. You'll only be able to smell the roses for the next 15-20 years before the planet suffers irreversible damage due to human influence and hubris. We as a species have known about the effects of greenhouse gases and the rapid decay of the earth since the 50's, and yet we have still somehow found ourselves here. How could we have allowed this to happen? I guess this isn't the best start to a positivity zine, but I won't let the environment ruin my zine the way we have ruined it. Which is why I have a new dose of optimism to hopefully make you feel better about all of this.

Take the time to recycle and do your part for the environment.

Nothing feels better than taking time to do something good and really make an impact. If every one of us throws away litter when we see it, then we can make a huge difference for the environment. Well, maybe not a huge difference, because what are the chances that everyone does that? And even if everyone did, what would that do? Over 70% of the world's pollution comes from less than 10 companies, so a stray Pepsi can won't actually matter. What can we do that would matter when a select few are destroying the planet? No, we live in a democracy where the people matter. So here's my new helpful tip.

Call your representatives and make your voice heard.

This country was founded on the idea that the people have the power and nothing can change that. By taking part in our political system, you can feel proud to be an American and hold your head up high knowing that you are influencing our society for the better. Except I can't really think of a recent time that has happened. I mean, think about this past election, the person with the most votes is not the president. Or even just think about the issue of gun control; did you know that over 90% of Americans believe there should be universal background checks? Except gun lobbyists like the NRA have spent over 50 million dollars in the past 5 years to make sure that government officials care more about them than the American people. I mean, it's obvious that those with the most money have more influence on the government than any of us ever could. I mean, this is bad. It's honestly a lot, because what do you do when the people in power have used the broken system for self-gain and clearly have no regard for the people they are supposed to be looking out for? No, this is what we were supposed to get away from, the weight of it all is just too much. Which is why I'm gonna change my advice to this.

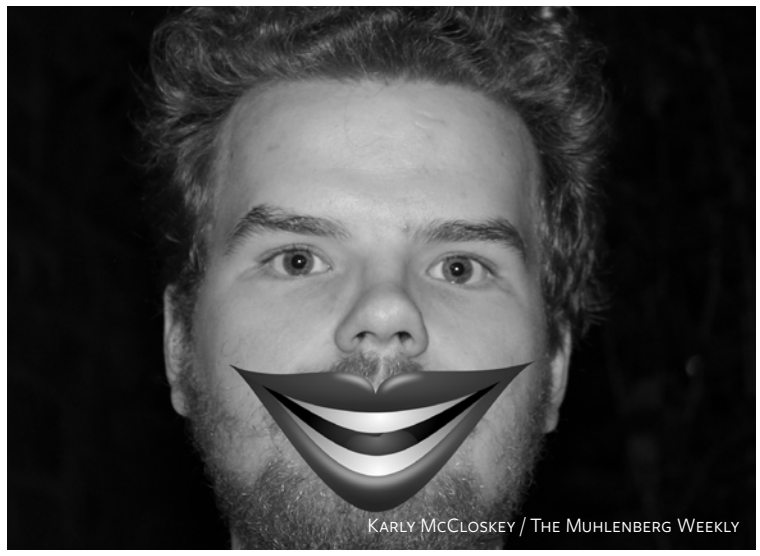
We are in the golden age of TV and movies, watch something good to distract yourself.

Right as I typed it, I realized that the vast majority of the biggest content being made right now is owned by one company. And that company is constantly making efforts to consolidate its power and keep smaller content creators from succeeding while they pay government officials to let them do this. It is honestly absurd that Disney could buy 20th Century Fox; that is a monopoly by definition and the government didn't even pretend to look into it. But hey, at least there's a lot of great smaller movies and TV shows available on streaming. So...

Just keep trying and caring. It sucks and it's hard, but at least you can maybe feel good about it.

Take advantage of streaming platforms to find content that speaks to you and you connect with.

But what's even the point in doing that? In a couple months CBS, Disney and NBC will have all their stuff exclusively on their streaming platforms; it's just gonna be cable again but online. And sure, Amazon Prime will be fine, but that's the biggest company in the world; you feel like an ass for supporting them. Forget streaming, there's got to be something else.


Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

How about try supporting individual artists with your money?

Except you're still just a person and outside of everything else going on you still have to survive. I mean, almost everyone reading this is leaving college with an impossible amount of student loans debt with degrees in oversaturated markets that wouldn't pay well anyway. So it's a great idea to support individual artists, but we have to eat and keep up with bills and so many people just aren't in positions to do that. For christ sakes, the cost of living keeps going up while a dollar is worth about the same as it did 20 years ago if you factor in inflation. So if you can't do that then at least...

You can support people non-financially through social media!

Social media has been great for sharing ideas and providing voices for people who otherwise wouldn't be able to find support. Also, traditionally marginalized people have a space to share their stories and find like-minded people. But what's that worth when Facebook allowed Russian interference in the election and Twitter lets Nazis just run wild and Instagram & Tumblr try to police women's bodies. What is any of the good worth when there is so much bad? You know what, here's the advice!

Detox from everything, just stop with all media and try your best to live.

If you don't know any of the awful things going on constantly, then it can't stress you out. If you do nothing than none of your actions can negatively impact the world. Just live in a hut on a mountain and forget about the world until you die. That wouldn't even work, though, because we already know that all this terrible stuff is happening so you feel irresponsible for stepping away, so there will always be that stress and guilt.

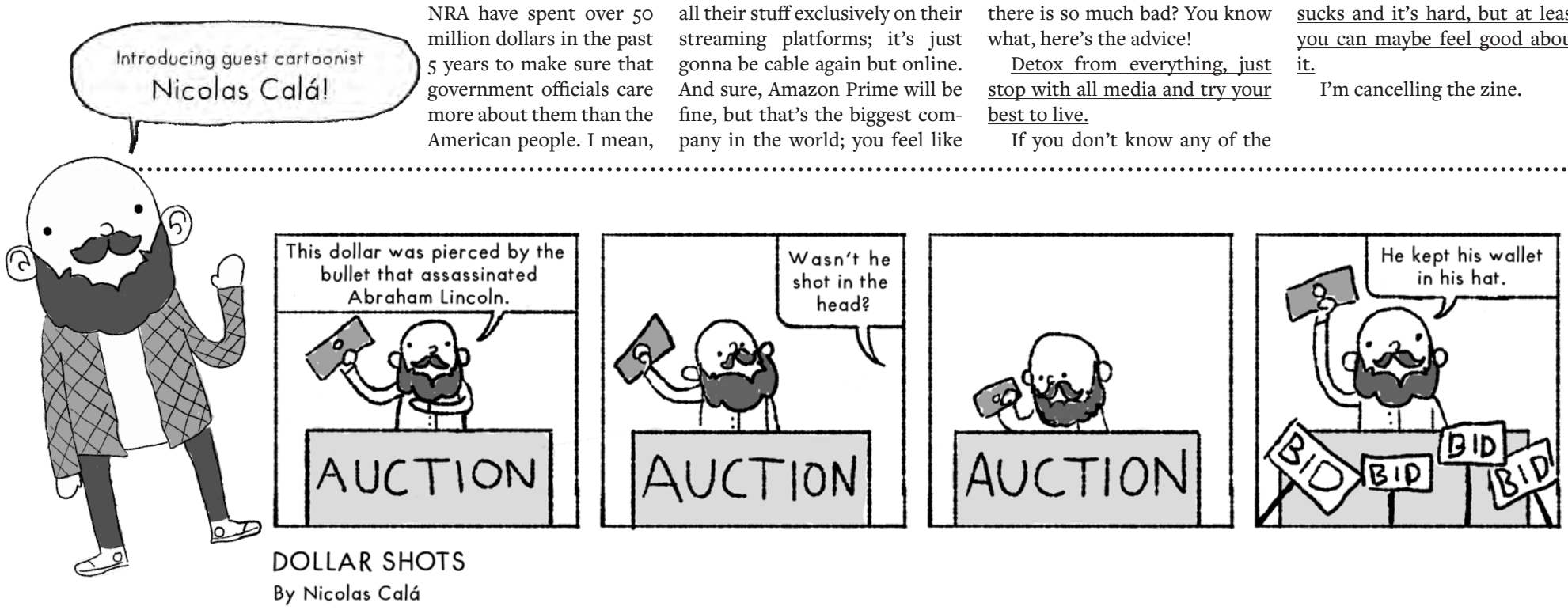
I guess just stop caring!

Right?!? Because what's the point? There's way too much happening constantly for you to care about all of it, so just give up and move on. Might as well live in defeat because it really seems like there's nothing you can do about anything.

But that sucks because that's what they want you to do. That's just letting those in power win. They want you to be defeated and complacent because that's the only way they get to keep abusing the earth, the people and their power. The system is built to keep you down so that those in power can remain in power and it sucks because there is so much pushing you into the mud, but all you can really do is keep trying to stand. Who knows if any of it does anything, but if you care and try you can at least feel good about that. So I guess the daily dose of optimism is...

Just keep trying and caring. It sucks and it's hard, but at least you can maybe feel good about it.

I'm cancelling the zine.



DOLLAR SHOTS
By Nicolas Calá

Men's and women's tennis in full swing

The men go 3-0 on the weekend, while the women pick up a win against Juniata

By Noah Brill
Staff Writer

Last weekend, fans of Muhlenberg tennis caught a glimpse of what's to come when the team made its debut on the road with two grueling day trips. On Saturday, both teams emerged victorious against Juniata, with the girls earning an 8-1 win and the men securing a 7-2 victory.

On Sunday, both teams played a doubleheader, where they each faced Moravian College and De-Sales University. The women fell to both, whereas the men handily defeated their counterparts 8-1 in both matches. The men completed the weekend 3-0, winning an impressive 23 of 27 matches played.

Although these were the only matches the ladies will be playing in the fall, the men will be heading down to Fredericksburg, VA from Oct. 4-6 to compete in the ITA Southeast Regional. Then, they conclude their fall season with a showdown against local rival and Division I school Lafayette College on Oct. 8.

Part of both teams' early successes can be attributed to the hands-on style of their coach, Jason Toedter.

"It hasn't been easy, but we've practiced every day, [and we] expect nothing short of our best from one another...coach has worked diligently to prepare us for different styles of play from opponents, on top of having us adhere to an intense workout regimen," said Caroline Maglaras '23, who won all of her matches on Saturday.

"Individually, he has set aside time for me to work on my strokes and has worked on a specific game plan for each of my matches," Malgaras continued.

Maglaras provides a unique perspective in that for her, this was her first time playing a real match against college-level opponents. This weekend seemed to mark the end of a transition for the rookie, and she did not disappoint.

"My mindset for this weekend was to give it my all, trust not only myself, but also my teammates and coaches, and to do everything in my power to make sure I was in complete control for every point. This weekend was great for me from an individual standpoint in that I not only was successful, but I gained a new understanding of collegiate tennis and learned the subtle nuances that make it different from the high school level," Malgaras added.

The men are coming off a transitional season when Toedter was a rookie coach. The Mules made a final push last year and their chance to make the playoffs was decided in their season finale. They ended up finishing with 6 wins, their most since 2009.

With a new freshman, Benedict Kohler '23, leading the team at first singles and the team losing no starters from last year, the spring season could be a huge opportunity.

The entire group, both veterans and rookies alike, do not want the narrative of last season to define how this year will play out. They have an understanding of what they need to do to ensure their success.

"We need to work together, have a common goal to be at our best at every practice and lift in order to be the best team we can be in the spring," Maglaras said. "We need to expand on our own strengths and improve on our weaknesses instead of paying attention to our opponents' past performances. As a team, we came into this weekend with a positive mindset and we were focused on how to work with our new partners in order to be at our collective best come springtime."

"We need to keep working hard in general, but particularly on our consistency and drilling if we want to write the story differently," Rose Glantz '22 added.

This understanding of what it takes will propel both teams to the next level, as both squads have their sights set on reaching the postseason.

from **Soccer** page 12

It's fuel for me to be the best player I can be each day," Richards explained.

Richards' determinedness and willingness to succeed as another member in a line of Muhlenberg soccer stars is evident in his seamless transition from high school to the collegiate level. Although the switch was going to be a tough one, it wasn't anything he couldn't handle.

"I knew transitioning from high school soccer to college soccer was going to be a huge change, but I feel like I prepared as best I could," said Richards.

Richards also had tremendous praise and appreciation for the high school coaches that enabled him to reach this point in his athletic career.

"My coaches knew I wanted to play at the highest level possible, so they would push me harder than any player on the field. In the moment, it sucked. I'm not gonna lie, they really beat me up at practices, but they knew what I was capable of doing; [they were] only trying to help me reach my goals. As I look back on it, I am so grateful to have had such amazing coaches," Richards reminisced.

However, while he has put in the necessary work in the time prior to his rookie year, Richards is well aware of his ceiling. "The work I put in this offseason has definitely paid off thus far, but I still have a lot of progress to make if I want to be the best player I can be," Richards made clear.

While the coaches back at Lancaster Catholic High School deserve immense credit, Coach Topping, his entire staff and the rest of the Mules have enabled Richards to begin the year as the C.C's leading goal scoring (6), tied for the C.C. lead in points (15), tied for second among freshman in points and tied for sixth among all of Division III in points per game.

For Richards, the special dynamic the team shares amongst each other is critical for his own success and for that of the whole group. "Our team is determined to be successful, and with that comes a sense of trust in each other that with every practice and game, we give it everything we have. All of us push each other to become the best players we can be, and for me, that has been huge. Just having the upperclassmen care about my progress and wanting to see me succeed makes me want to work harder, not for myself, but for the team," said Richards.

Richards now looks to his new collegiate coaches and sees just how hard they have worked and what they wish to accomplish. "Our coaches know what we are capable of doing this season, and each practice they push us a little bit harder to help us achieve our goals for the season. They don't get enough credit for all they've done. They are turning this program around and helping us get back to the conference playoffs and the NCAA tournament," Richards said.

In order to maintain this spectacular level of play, Richards understands what must be done. "I think it's a matter of giving it 110 percent every time I step on the pitch. Our coaches emphasize how important it is to do the little things right and they are right. If I can simplify my game while still being an impact, I think it will take my game to a new level," Richards relayed.

While he continues to dominate on the field, Richards won't let himself get caught up in the accomplishments and will continue to live by the words of his coaches:

"Your greatest achievement isn't this one, it's the next one."

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Women's soccer drops conference opener

Having lost two games in a row, the Mules are eager to get back in the win column

Staff Writer
By Samantha Brenner

With the first month of school coming to a close, the Muhlenberg women's soccer team is 4-2-0 and on their road up from a rough past few games.

The Lady Mules started the season off strong, winning four straight shutout games against tough competitors. Although they wanted to bring that winning momentum with them, the Lady Mules took a hard 1-0 loss against Moravian on Sept. 11.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, the Lady Mules traveled to Lancaster, PA for their first Centennial Conference game, where they would take on the 4-1-1 Franklin & Marshall team.

The women started the game off strong, outshooting Franklin & Marshall with 12 shots to three shots, none led goals for the Mules. Though the first half was to no avail for the ladies, they remained determined, pushing the ball and taking control.

The Mules fought hard all throughout, but a goal in the 39 minute for the Diplomats proved to be all that was needed to give them the 1-0 win.

Forward and midfielder Mia Mulin '21, however, is hopeful about the team's near future. "Getting back into the win column is going to be a challenge with some tough opponents on the road ahead. It's going to take a lot of grit and heart in our upcoming games to score goals and have a solid defense," said Mulin.

Mulin and her team look to their coaching staff, especially to second-year head coach Kelly Wakeman. "Coach Wakeman has really emphasized bringing what we do in practice to our games. She encourages us to 'stick to our game' and keep a positive attitude during our matches. The payoff from working hard in practices will show in games," Mulin said.

However, while they did start the season off strong, Mulin and the rest of the team have no plans to change their attitude.

"It was a tough loss for us being our first conference match, but we're already looking ahead at our next match against Haverford. We're preparing to come out to fight and play hard. This loss against F&M motivates us to be hungry in the next game, and [it] becomes a game we can learn from," Mulin said

For Mulin, it's all about learning and growing from the past. She plans to take away the important lessons she has learnt from the past two losses and use them to bring the team back to victory.

Like Mulin, Carly Shaffer '21 also looks to bring the team back onto a winning track. "To get back into a winning streak, we need to be confident and play our game of soccer. In high intensity games, we occasionally lose our style of play, but when we set the pace of the game things fall into place. In the last game we had great opportunities on goal but we just couldn't finish. We will look to continue finding those opportunities and hitting the back of the net," said Shaffer.

Shaffer had one shot, almost heading the ball for a goal that would tie the game for the Lady Mules.

Shaffer relies on her teammates and coaching staff, using their advice to get her through this hard time.

"Our coach often reminds us to question ourselves why we play the game of soccer," said Shaffer. "It all goes back to the quote by Mia Hamm who said, 'Somewhere behind the athlete you've become and the hours of practice and the coaches who have pushed you is a little girl who fell in love with the game and never looked back...play for her.' As a team and coaching staff we constantly look to motivate ourselves and stay positive."

The team looks to pick themselves up as they play their next Centennial Conference game on Wednesday, Sept. 25, traveling to Haverford, PA to take on their team.

"Losing a game is always tough mentally, but as a team we are confident in our abilities to overcome this adversity. Despite the loss, we are excited and looking forward to the next game to compete. We have a lot of potential this season and we are ready to show the conference who we are," said Shaffer.

Record is accurate as of production date.

Mules move to 3-0 in thrilling overtime win

In a nail-biter with conference foe Susquehanna the Mules finally come away with another victory

Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

Another year, another barnburner matchup between Muhlenberg and the Riverhawks from Susquehanna University. Since 2014, the matchup between the Mules and the Riverhawks has resulted in a final score decided by less than a touchdown, with the Mules coming out victorious in four of those five matchups.

Susquehanna took to the field at Scotty Wood Stadium, coming off a huge road win the previous week against defending Centennial Conference Champions Johns Hopkins.

Quarterback Michael Ruisch and Running Back Da'Avian Ellington have been spark plugs for the Riverhawks' potent offense that would pose a challenge for the Mules' elite defense. With the bleachers at Scotty Wood Stadium filled to the masses on an 85-degree homecoming Saturday, the stage was set for another nail-biting game between the Mules and Riverhawks.

Midway through the first quarter, the first big play for the Mules came on special teams thanks to Frankie Feaster '21's block punt setting up the Mules at midfield. After a big pass play from Michael Hnatkowsky '21 to Max Kirin '20, the Mules found themselves in the red zone. Tight end Ryan Curtiss '20 scored a 2-yard rushing touchdown, lining up from the quarterback position in the Mules' new wildcat offense. The Riverhawks offense responded with their next drive by moving the ball into Muhlenberg territory before Ruisch's pass attempt to the endzone was intercepted by Jay McGill '22.

After both teams traded scoreless possessions, Frankie Feaster once again came up big on special teams, blocking his second punt of the game and setting up the Mules' offense with another short field. The second block of the game came just two plays after Feaster recorded his first sack of the game. Unlike the first blocked punt, the Mules could not take advantage of the short field, as Hnatkowsky threw a red zone interception.

The Riverhawks responded with a drive lasting over five minutes and were able to put their first points on the board after kicker Elijah Hoffman nailed a 35-yard field goal.

Heading into the locker room at halftime, the score remained 7-3, as the two teams struggled on offense combining for three interceptions. After receiving the ball first to begin the second half, the Mules orchestrated a drive lasting over seven minutes that resulted in Curtiss' second touchdown of the game, this time on a 15-yard reception from Hnatkowsky. Once again the Riverhawks' offense responded off of a Mules touchdown, with points this time on a 14-yard scramble by Ruisch on a five-minute drive aided by a crucial roughing the passer penalty that would have set up a 3rd and 15 at the Muhlenberg 43-yard line.

Muhlenberg failed to score on their second and final drive of the third quarter, setting up yet another thrilling finish between the two teams. With Muhlenberg forcing a punt early in the fourth quarter, the Mules offense came out firing, driving the ball into Susquehanna territory. As the Mules entered the red zone, the Susquehanna defense kept their composure and forced two incompletions to set up fourth down. Kicker Todd Spirt '20 added his third field goal of the year, this time from 35 yards out, and the Mules found themselves up by ten with just under ten minutes to play.

Another forced punt by the Mules had the offense seeking to put the game with another score. Key runs by James Diggs '21 and a 17-yard reception by Nick Ugarte set up another offensive drive in Susquehanna territory. With their backs up against the wall again, the Susquehanna defense was able to force a fourth and nine at their 32 yard line. A substitution infraction on the Riverhawks moved the ball five yards forward, and the Mules decided to try and take advantage of the miscue.

Hnatkowsky's completion to Mitch Daniel '21 fell one yard short of the first down marker, and the Riverhawks took possession at their own 24 with just under three minutes to play. Ruisch stepped up and found Kyle Good for an 11-yard completion, and 15 yards were tacked on after a Mules penalty. The Riverhawks' offense took advantage of another Muhlenberg penalty and Ruisch was able to connect with Mikah Christian in the back of the end zone on a 36-yard touchdown pass to tie the game and force overtime.

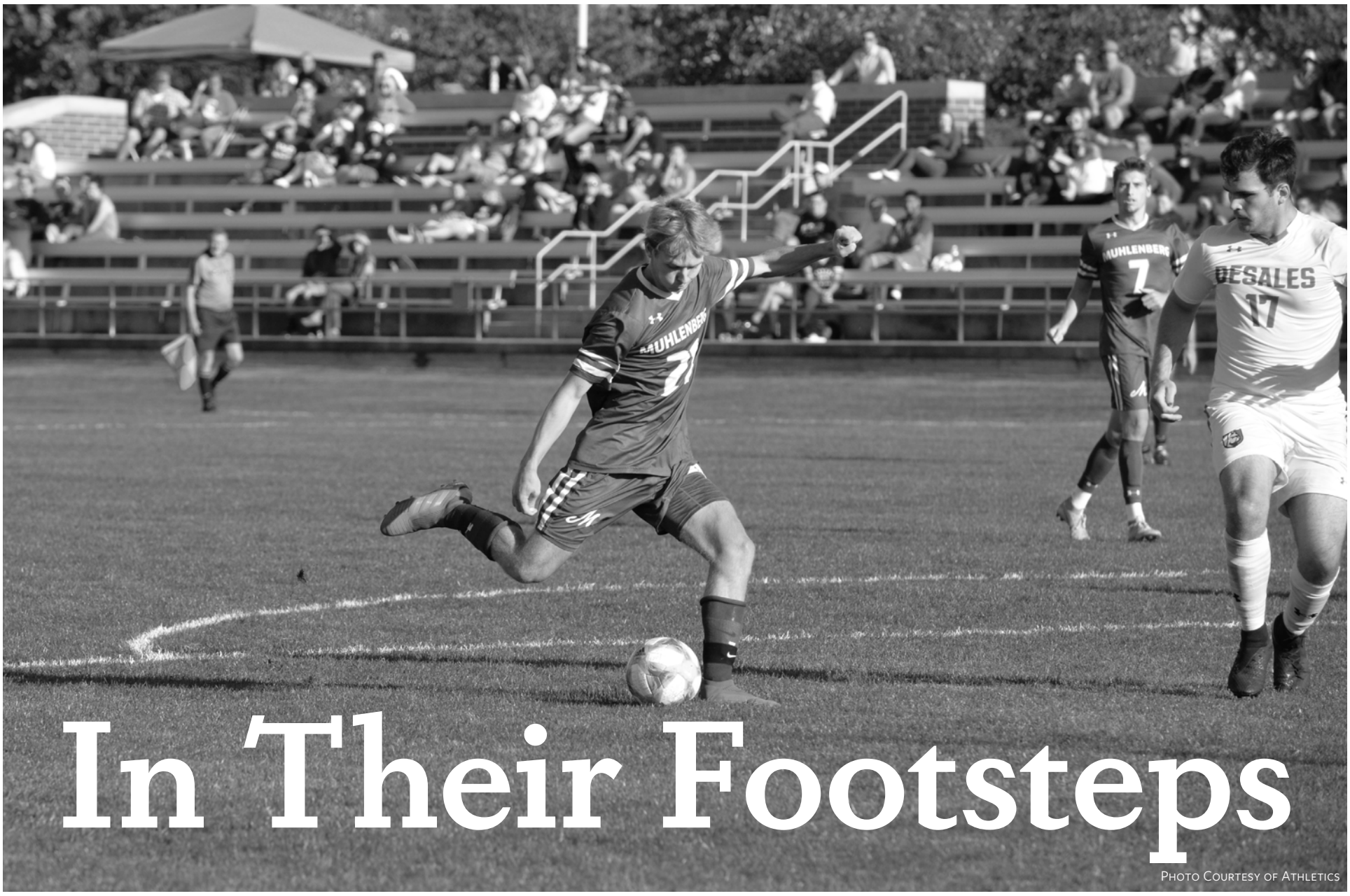
The Mules began overtime with the ball, and on third and seven, Hnatkowsky found an opening in the middle of the field and scrambled where he would set up first and goal. Mark Riggio '20 scored on the next play thanks to great blocking from the left side of the offensive line. On the next Riverhawks drive, the offense moved the ball inside the ten yard line, but Dante Lanardo '20 forced a long fourth down with a sack on Ruisch. On 4th and 11, the Mules secondary forced Ruisch to scramble for a fourth down and Daymon Fleming '21 stopped him just short to secure another Mules victory.

The game was finally over and the entire team flooded onto the field. With all the players out on the field, their emotions were sure to follow them. Emotions visible on their faces, the players and coaches found each other, hugged one another, and in screaming fashion congratulated one another on their performance.

Prior to exiting the field for the locker room, Coach Milne had some words for his men. He explained how proud he was of them and made sure to tell them that while they must enjoy the moment, they must also be prepared to come back next week and perform with the same mentality and grit.

Going into next week, the ninth-ranked Mules head to Huntingdon, PA to face Juniata. The Mules are looking to add another win and build off of yet another dominant performance and start the season 4-0 for the second straight year.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



In Their Footsteps

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Richards '23 seals the game versus DeSales with a penalty kick goal on OT.

Soccer standout Chris Richards '23 keeps a family tradition of excellence in 'Berg sports alive and kicking

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

As Alumni Weekend 2019 was in full swing on Saturday, Sept. 21, the men of Muhlenberg soccer headed out of town to Lancaster, PA. There awaited the Franklin and Marshall Diplomats, who would be the first Centennial Conference match of the year for the Mules. At 5-0-1, morale was through the roof. Standing at 5-1 themselves, their matchup with the Diplomats was destined to be a nailbiter.

Ultimately, the game was just that. After a goal three minutes into the game by F&M, Stephen Carton '22, with help from Jordan Cimring '20, tied it up just over a minute later. In the end, after an intense play back and forth, F&M would score the game-clinching goal at the 71:20 minute mark and be the first to take down the formidable Muhlenberg squad.

Although suffering their first loss, the team's strong start to the season has been undeniably infectious. This has certainly been the case for Chris Richards '23. For him, it has been quite the alumni weekend. The week prior to Homecoming, on Sept. 17, Richards took home his first Centennial Conference (C.C.) Player of the Week award. This honor was given to him not only after he recorded three goals and three assists in the span of two games, but following his five-point performance against Centenary on Sept. 14, where Richards became the first player since 1987 to be involved in five goals.

"It's really cool for me, being able to carry on the family tradition attending Muhlenberg, and follow in the footsteps of some of my biggest role models."

Growing up not too far away in Lancaster, PA, Richards was raised with a family tradition of Muhlenberg soccer. Being the cousin of three former Muhlenberg soccer alums, Eric '95, Todd '98 and Dave Ervin '00, Richards is determined to carry on the family legacy.

"It's really cool for me, being able to carry on the family tradition attending Muhlenberg and [following] in the footsteps of some of my biggest role models," Richards said.

In the early stages of his Muhlenberg soccer career, Richards is certainly making his cousins and brother, former Muhlenberg football player Bobby Bushong '11, proud. They came to school, left their mark and now it is Richards' turn to leave his lasting impression on the school many members of his family are proud to call their alma mater. While admiring the path that he is following, he understands the road ahead will be challenging.

"Obviously, I have some big shoes to fill, but I think that's another reason why I was so drawn towards Muhlenberg... I love the challenge. It gives me something to work for outside of the other goals our team has established.

see **Soccer** page 10

Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Sept. 28

Football
Muhlenberg vs Juniata
Saturday, Sept., 28 @ 12:00 pm
Huntingdon, PA

Volleyball
Muhlenberg vs Dickinson
Saturday, Sept., 28 @ 12:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Men's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Swarthmore
Saturday, Sept., 28 @ 7:00 pm
Varsity Field

Women's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Dickinson
Saturday, Sept., 28 @ 4:00 pm
Varsity Field

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 4
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NEWS
Students recall the rush process for sororities and their unique experiences within them. They discuss how Greek life has changed their sense of community at 'Berg.
read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE
ArtsFest allows the Lehigh Valley Community to experience art from local artists, featuring everything from handmade jewelry and tarot card readings to tattoos and live graffiti art.
read more on 7

OP/ED
Check out The Weekly's first installment of Speaking Your Language, a new foreign-language feature that will appear regularly in issues to come!
read more on 8

SPORTS
Over the weekend, the first-ever "Play for Equity" games took place with a slate of four games, raising awareness for Title IX and gender equality efforts.
read more on 12

Earnest produces vibrations
'Berg's all-woman production of Oscar Wilde's classic comedy amuses and delights

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

Kylee Jacoby '20, Heather Dutton '20, Melanie McCoy '22 and Posie Lewis '20 realize the true importance of being earnest.

Free laundry, free tampons and free speech
SGA president Stephanie Ng addresses plans for future

By Cydney Wilson
Contributing Writer

Since the beginning of the semester, Muhlenberg's Student Government Association (SGA) and student body president Stephanie Ng '20 have been working on enacting many new changes and initiatives on campus.

"Some of the projects we're working on include free laundry, free feminine products in bathrooms, leadership workshops and improving social life and spirit on campus," said Ng. "We have some very exciting events coming your way, which include tailgates, Whine Week and milkshakes in GQ. There's a few other projects that will be a surprise so keep your eyes out. I can't guarantee that you will see all these things this semester, but we are certainly working on these things."

"Whine Week" is one new way that SGA is working to increase transparency and dialogue between students and their student government.

"Essentially, it will be a week of activities and tabling that will give students the opportunity to voice their opinions," explained Ng. "At the beginning of the semester, I had tasked everyone with the assignment of defining why they were on Student Government and what they hoped to achieve. Almost all individuals said they wanted to advocate for students. From all my years in Student Government, students seem hesitant to come to us for one reason or another. By having this Whine Week, we hope to create a space where we are more accessible so students are more comfortable with approaching us."

"People should utilize and form relationships with their representatives."

Ng hopes to restructure SGA in order to better meet the needs of students.

"So far I have changed our meeting structure so we spend half the time as a general assembly and half the time in our committees," said Ng. "This gives our committees more time to meet during the week, which should let us get more work done. I'm always thinking about projects we can take on to help students get more involved and develop their leadership skills as well."

The constituency program, which was instituted last year, assigns a member of SGA to a group of student clubs/organizations with the goal of functioning as a representative for those groups. The goal of the constituency program is to strengthen relationships between SGA and the student body at 'Berg.

"The constituency program is still in use; however, it is not very effective," said Ng. "We are having problems with the constituency groups reaching back out to their according representatives. We're hoping to revamp the system because people should utilize and form relationships with their representatives. We're here to serve the students and we want to hear everyone's concerns."

In order to improve transparency between the students and SGA, many steps have been taken.

"We are increasing our activity on Instagram and Facebook, so please follow our pages. I also hope to make a few posts on my personal pages to update everyone on what's been going on. The hard part about creating change is that it takes time to do so," explains Ng. "Although students may not see progress on the new initiatives we are working on, a lot of it has to do with all the approval and offices we have to go through, which significantly slows things down. I assure you, progress has been made."

This semester, SGA is considering negotiating the College's contract with Sodexo to improve the dining options on campus.

"We hope to do some tabling and surveying to gather what students think," said Ng. "We have some things in mind, such as meal plan options and dining hall options, but we would really like to get student feedback on the matter before we push for anything."

"As president, not only am I trying to be as communicative and supportive as possible to all the students, but I also want to create opportunities for students to reach their full potential," said Ng, summing up her role as president.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, September 23

Fire Alarm - 1:51 a.m.
Report of fire alarm from using microwave in Robertson Hall, system silenced and reset

Sick Student - 2:47 a.m.
Report of sick student in Walz Hall, 4th floor. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety

Institutional Vandalism - 8:18 p.m.
Report of graffiti found on Delta Zeta door. No suspects at this time.

Tuesday, September 24

Assault - 3:00 p.m.
Report of assault in Seegers Union. Individuals identified and spoken to, investigation to continue.

Injured Student - 5:15 p.m.
Report of injured student in Life Sports Center. Muhlenberg EMS responded, student refused transport.

Wednesday, September 25

Fire Alarm - 10:35 a.m.
Report of fire alarm from shower steam at 2333 Liberty Street. System reset.

Thursday, September 26

Found Property - 9:23 p.m.
Report of phone item in Miller Forum. Item returned to owner.

Friday, September 27

Fire Alarm - 2:12 p.m.
Report of fire alarm from shower steam at 2333 Liberty Street. System reset.

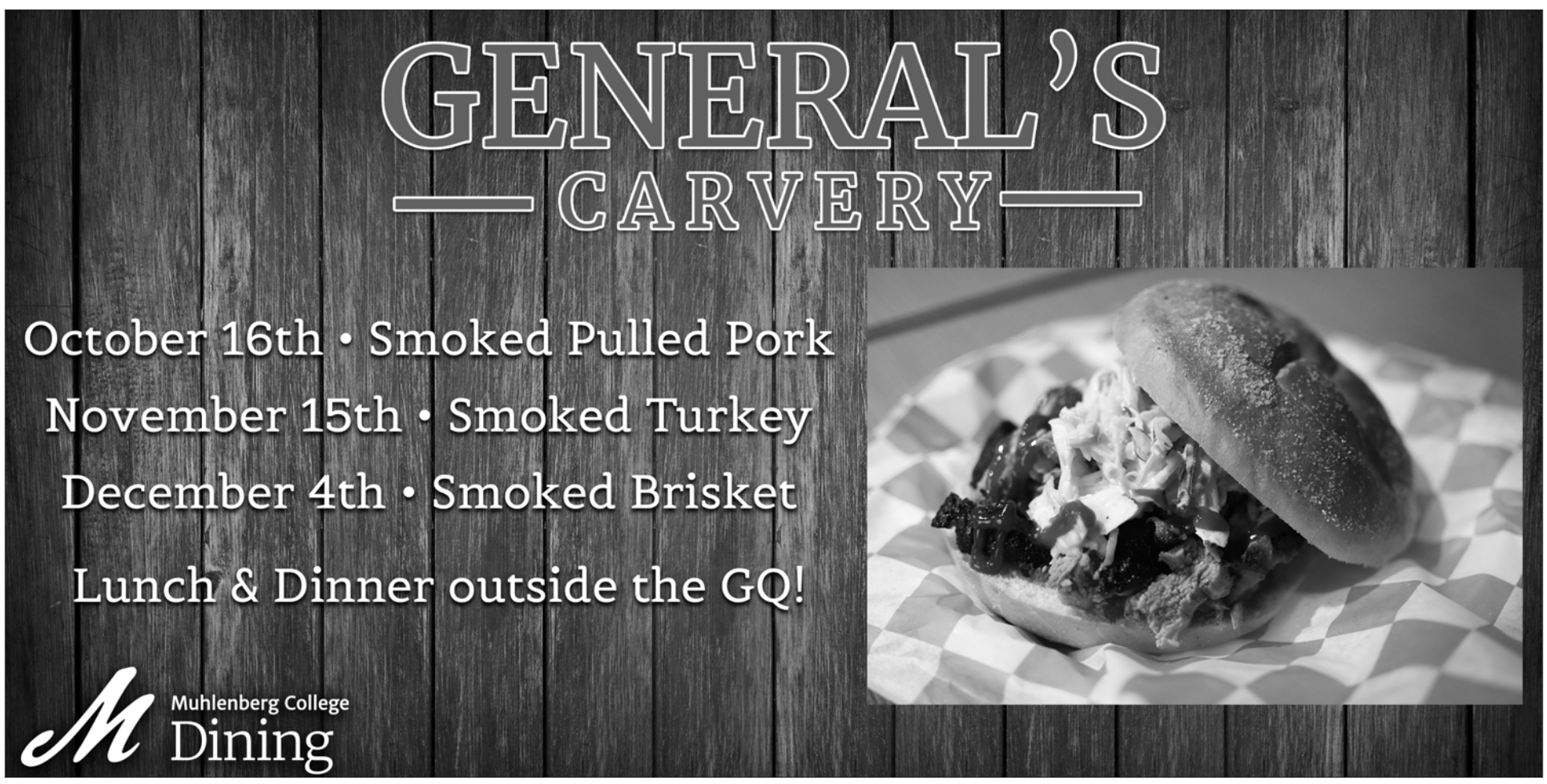
Saturday, September 28

Fire Alarm - 5:54 p.m.
Report of fire alarm from cooking at 2145 Chew Street. System reset.

Odor Investigation - 10:13 p.m.
Report of suspicious odor in Prosser Annex. Area checked and nothing was noted.

Sunday, September 29

Fire Alarm - 12:44 p.m.
Report of fire alarm at Sigma Phi Epsilon. Allentown PD also responded, system reset.



Opening doors to a new home or another world?

The truth about Panhellenic recruitment at 'Berg

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Sarah O'Sullivan
Contributing Writer

Molly McCarthy '22 had no idea what she was getting herself into as she and a group of girls knocked and anxiously waited outside the Red Doors.

Then, clapping, chanting and yelling, some 50 unfamiliar girls dressed in identical outfits presented themselves to McCarthy as she walked through the doorway. No, this wasn't the beginning of a dystopian novel. This was the first of four days of sorority recruitment at Muhlenberg College.

"I was just standing there, waiting, internally freaking out," said McCarthy. "They had us stand in a certain order, and I knew no one around me, but all of the girls seemed really nervous too."

McCarthy, like many girls this semester, decided to go through sorority recruitment to see if she would enjoy the process. McCarthy said she hoped this process would help her find a way to "make a small school bigger." By the end of the week, McCarthy had accepted a bid from Phi Sigma Sigma.

McCarthy described the Greek experience at 'Berg as being less intense than she imagined.

"There is less pressure to be in a sorority [at Muhlenberg]," said McCarthy. "It's just like a small community."

Meredith Krewson '20, an active member of Alpha Chi Omega, said she didn't even know she wanted to go through recruitment before coming to school. She had seen negative depictions of sororities in the media and heard horror stories from friends at big schools. Krewson now serves as the Vice President of Recruitment for the Zeta Chi chapter at Muhlenberg.

"I looked around the room and thought, 'This is the room in which I feel I could blossom the most, the room in which I could be supported and empowered,' because the women surrounding me exuded those characteristics," Krewson said of her personal recruitment experience. Krewson said her sisters teach her how to be a "Real Strong Wom[an]", as per the Alpha Chi Omega slogan.

"Sororities are empowering. The part that tears down women is hazing," said McCarthy. "By removing that element, it becomes so much more positive on this campus."

Hazing and other activities that have tarnished the image of Greek life at schools nationwide are banned at Muhlenberg. A firm anti-hazing policy has been put in place, which states that Muhlenberg "...ensure[s] that students are informed about the definitions and harmful consequences associated with hazing and know how to take an active role in preventing it from happening within their social settings." Muhlenberg recently shut down the chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon after hazing accusations surfaced in November of 2017.

"Hazing is such a huge concern, as it should be. It's so problematic that it's still occurring, especially with the recent deaths caused by hazing," said Krewson. "It shouldn't be a question in anyone's mind whether it's OK or not; it's just not."

According to Berg's Anti-Hazing Five Year Institutional Report, the college has had eight reports of hazing accusations since 2014. Five of these accusations come from panhellenic organizations but were "unfounded as hazing." The other three were from fraternal organizations; only Sigma Phi Epsilon's report is confirmed.

Many schools in the Lehigh Valley have also experienced issues of hazing. Though many accusations have come from fraternal organizations, reports of intense sorority hazing at Lehigh University came from their chapter of Alpha Chi Omega. As a result of the recent hazing accusations from the organization, the Alpha Chi Omega chapter at Lehigh University was dissolved and banned from campus from Dec. 2017 until June 2020.

At Muhlenberg, many members of Alpha Chi Omega specifically, and Alpha Chi Omega's national Instagram page, posted pictures with captions during the week of Sept. 25, National Hazing Prevention Week. These posts said, "These Hands Don't Haze" and "Real Strong Women Don't Haze."

According to NBC, nationwide, 44 states have passed laws prohibiting hazing. Despite these anti-hazing laws, only 10 states consider hazing a misdemeanor or possible felony, and Pennsylvania is not one of these 10. According to an article in *The Morning Call*, Pennsylvania's Timothy Piazza Anti-Hazing Law requires all higher education institutions to post all violations of anti-hazing on their websites and allows sorority or fraternity houses to be confiscated for promoting and/or participating in hazing.

Arianna Tilley '22 did not go through the recruitment process but still has a positive opinion of sororities at Muhlenberg. Tilley had never heard of any Muhlenberg sorority hazing and does not believe that it is something that prevents students from going through the process. She said she knows a lot of people in sororities, and thinks they all seem really friendly.

Though it has only been three weeks since Bid Day, McCarthy said she feels supported in every aspect of her life by her new sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma.

"I'm looking forward to getting really involved in our philanthropy," said McCarthy. "I'm just excited to get to know more people and expand what can feel like a tiny campus."

Follow the trends

College students engage with news in a social media era

By Cynthia Silva
Contributing Writer

Crowds of students head in and out of the dining hall, passing by the light lounge, a central venue where students hang out to do anything from studying to catching up with friends. The TV is muted, but in white bold letters is a CNN banner that reads the latest statements made by President Trump.

"It's kind of just there," said Madison McCandless '19, referring to the TV that plays CNN 24 hours a day. "Most people don't notice it's there unless they don't have anything else to do and happen to zone out in that direction."

The data shows that this isn't that surprising. When it comes to their media habits, eight percent of millenials watch news solely on television compared to 19 percent of adults, according to a 2018 Nielsen report. However, 69 percent of millennials get news at least once a day, according to a study made by the American Press Institute.

Pew Research defines the age group for millennials as those born between 1981 and 1996. However, this term varies and is quite fluid and many refer to anyone born before the millenium who was raised with the internet as a millenial.

"I have the 69 News app," said McCandless, who was born in 1997. "I like to know what happens down the street, but I also want to know what's going on nationally or internationally."

McCandless's habits reflect the way most of the millennials consume news. According to the American Press Institute study, the average millennial gets nearly 74 percent of their news online.

News companies have caught on to this trend. Allentown's daily newspaper, *The Morning Call*, implemented an online strategy at the beginning of the technology revolution, explained David Erdman, Media and Communications lecturer and *The Morning Call*'s former publisher and editor-in-chief.

> "If you're getting something for free, then you're the product."

Erdman said that it wasn't typical for news companies to be fully digitally literate at that time.

"Media used to be monolithic, so in the Lehigh Valley there was *The Morning Call*," he explained.

Young people increasingly look to social media for news as well. In 2015, the American Press Institute found that 86 percent of millennials read news through social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter.

Newspapers have made note of this trend and have made use of social media to spread their articles.

"40 percent of traffic may come from Facebook for a given story," said Erdman. "I think in general, more people are reading than ever before."

However, Erdman warned about the dangers of social media news sources.

"The challenge is people gravitate toward sources they agree with...It's fine to have customized news, but to be civically literate in news, you can't stop with the customized news," he said.

Similarly, John Sullivan, professor of Media and Communications at Muhlenberg, would rather see his students taking a bit more effort to find news stories.

"If you're getting something for free, then you're the product," said Sullivan. "If all of this is coming to you on one space, that's very convenient for you but, by the same token, it doesn't give you the same range of news that's out there."

He used the 'fake news' phenomenon surrounding the 2016 elections as an example of this idea.

"That's what happened in the 2016 elections," said Sullivan. "People were passing around stories that the mainstream news media had already debunked as false, but people in social media never got out of that bubble to get to the real source to find out that it was debunked. Therefore, they kept passing it along."

Although millennials use social media more often, they weren't the main demographic sharing this fake news. People 65 years and over were more frequently affected by the deception, according to a study from Princeton University.

"Our most robust finding is that the oldest Americans, especially those over 65, were more likely to share fake news to their Facebook friends," wrote the Princeton researchers. In fact, younger Americans were better at separating factual news statements from opinions, according to a recent Pew Research Center study.

Crafting communities that last

How 'Berg's Knitwits and Jewelry-Making clubs have stood the test of time

By Maryn Pryor
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg has a variety of clubs pertaining to crafting on campus, such as the Jewelry Making Club and the knitting club called the Knitwits. Both clubs have been welcoming students on campus for years: the Knitwits have been around for over eight years, and the Jewelry Making Club was founded in the spring semester of 2015.

Anyone is welcome in either club, even if they've never knitted or created jewelry before.

"The Knitwits Club meets once a week to knit, crochet and just hang out with one another," explained Rebekka Broyles '22, Knitwits Secretary. "People come regardless of their knitting/needlework experience. I for one did not know how to crochet until the current president Heather Chapman ['20] taught me how to at a meeting. In addition to meetings, we have knitting sales where we raise money for a variety of different charities by selling our creations."

> **"Knitwits have helped shape me into the friendly knitting, crocheting and yarn-loving student I am today."**

Similarly, the veteran members of the Jewelry Making Club and their faculty advisor, Karen Norman, are always willing to teach new members techniques.

"We work with three different types of metal: nickel silver, brass and copper," Jewelry Making Club member Haley Lester '20 explained. "We saw metal into the desired shape, sand and file away the imperfections and solder metal pieces together to provide our creations with [dimension]. We can make any jewelry piece we want, including pendants, bracelets, rings and earrings. In a recent semester, we had the opportunity to expand into stone setting. Since we began using stones, there have been a plethora of ideas of how to incorporate them into our projects, including pendants and brooches."

The community in both clubs attracts students from all around campus. Broyles explains that the Knitwits have created a great sense of community for members and an atmosphere of acceptance.

"Last year, I hardly knew how to knit, and everyone welcomed me into the club with open arms and from that I met some of my closest friends," said Broyles.

"I distinctly remember our club bonding trip to Grimm's Orchard because all of the Knitwits got together and picked apples and talked about the things we were knitting. Knitwits have helped shape me into the friendly knitting, crocheting and yarn-loving student I am today."

In addition to creating a welcoming atmosphere, the Knitwits draw in those students that want to get involved on campus in a constructive and rewarding way.

Photo Courtesy of Heather Chapman

Cole Geissler '21 and Corinne Battistelli '22 pose with their knitted creations.

"Muhlenberg students enjoy knitting because many people feel the need to be productive and get involved in many things," said Broyles. "Knitting is an easy thing to do on the go or even when you are watching a movie. For me, knitting helps me to feel like I am being productive even when I am resting on the weekends."

Broyles explained how Knitwits' flexibility makes the club especially welcoming.

"Members can come and go as they please to exchange knitting needles, grab some yarn, learn different techniques or simply catch up with friends," she said.

Similarly, Lester described the way the Jewelry Club acts as a social space in addition to learning new skills.

"My favorite thing about Jewelry Club is meeting new members who are excited about learning how to create their own jewelry," said Lester. "I think students enjoy making jewelry and being involved because we each get to put our own spin on the projects and the veteran members are always willing to help newer members with any part of their piece of work."

These two clubs are always open to welcoming new members and the Jewelry Making Club meets every Friday from 2:30-4:30 pm in CA 184, and the Knitwits meet Mondays from 7-8 pm in the GQ Annex.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

- Thomas Merton

"The Importance of Being Earnest"
Woman-led production has audiences in stiches

Ayden Levine
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

Kylee Jacoby '20 (left) and Posie Lewis '20 battle it out as Cecily Cardew and Gwendolen Fairfax in *The Importance of Being Earnest.*

Nine. Nine sets of shoes, nine mismatched chairs and nine empowering ladies adorned the Baker Theater stage on Thursday, Sept. 26. These actresses put on a spectacular all-female version of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, written by Oscar Wilde, from Sept. 26 through Sept. 29. The comedy, written in 1895, describes the story of two young men, Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff, who both create alter egos named Ernest in attempt to win the hearts of the two women who, conveniently, only seem to love men named Ernest. Director and assistant professor of Theatre & Dance Jim VanValen's version of the production, set in the 19th century, featured an array of gorgeous Victorian-style costumes, while also incorporating modern vernacular and modern music. These extra touches were just the icing on the cake that added to the show's mystique.

The night began with a spotlight on a row of chairs of various styles positioned downstage. One by one, each actress danced onstage barefoot wearing a vibrant colored robe to the beat of whimsical music by the Vitamin String Quartet, though Gwen Wilkie '20 composed all of the original music featured in the show. Each robe was decorated with the actress's name on it. The short prologue provided insight into how our stars got into character, from arriving to the theater, putting on make-up and getting their hair done. As each actress took off their robe and put on their shoes, the final symbolic step of transforming from their "street persona" into their character was complete. "[The robes] let us see them as actors, which kind of plays into the whole fact that the show's about being insincere and fake in a way," said audience member Jessica Jacoby '17, sister of Kylee Jacoby '20, who played Cecily Cardew in the show.

Holly Cate, a faculty member at Muhlenberg, who played the role of Lady Bracknell, reflected on how that starting scene was the brain-child of VanValen. "Jim really wanted that feel of what is the actors' process, and how do we get into character, and what does it mean to start a show?"

VanValen's decision to make this production an all-female one had a very big impact on the audience.

Jacoby commented, "I love that the cast is all women. It kind of goes back to [Shakespearean] times, when it would be all men and men playing female characters. It's like, 'Okay, why not? Why can't we have time for that?'"

Kieva Mark '21 said, "I love the all-female cast. I think it's such a great take on the show."

Additionally, cast member Heather Dutton '20 explained, "Jim could've quite honestly directed an all-female production of any show and I would've been excited about it."

While the whole show overall is a comedy, many of the laughs seemed to be in response to Dutton's performance in the role of Algernon Moncrieff, the wisecracking, lady's man best friend of the main character, Jack Worthing. Time after time, it seemed that audience members could not stop talking about Dutton's spectacular acting.

Michael Colasurdo '23 commented, "*The Importance of Being Earnest* is probably one of my favorite shows ever, and [Dutton] playing Algernon really added to it. The physicality of Algernon was just so good, and she's very lanky so it's very natural for her to be so physical."

Diana Abrams '23 said, "She [Dutton] was so funny! I could not stop laughing."

When asked about what drew Dutton to the role, she explained, "I actually hadn't seen the show and knew very little about it, but after reading the script, I fell in love with it. I specifically fell in love with Algernon from the start. I'm so fascinated by that character and by his enthusiasm for life and his honesty and commitment to indulging the different parts of himself."

Cate was also a big hit on stage. Cate said she feels blessed to be a professor in the Muhlenberg Theatre Department because of the opportunities that she gets to be onstage with students.

"It's a huge benefit that the department offers me because actors should act," said Cate.

When asked why she was drawn to the role of Lady Bracknell, she replied, "She's so fun because she's very smart, but with these blinders on."

Cate also explained that while she was very intrigued by the character, figuring out exactly how to play her was a whole different story. "It took a while for me to find the right way to portray her because of how she's daffy at times but also how she's really acute. I really just had to play with it."

Luckily, Cate was given every opportunity to do just that. "Our rehearsals were really playful, and that helped. I was able to go over and do the scenes and my lines different ways until I figured it out."

One might wonder if working with students proved to be a challenge for a seasoned actor like Cate, but that was not the case. "For me it's a great honor to be on the stage with them. We're a really high-powered training program, and they're really good! And I never think, 'Oh, I'm working with students.' I think, 'Oh, I'm working with really good actors.'"

Cate explained that she felt blessed to be able to not only have fun with this experience, but also learn from it. "It's fun to be in a show and teach acting because it's humbling. And I can say in pure honesty in my classes, 'Yeah, yeah, I'm struggling with that, too.' And I think that's useful."

That's not to say that the other actresses weren't fantastic as well. Laura Santo '20, who played Lane the manservant, was especially funny. Every time she would enter and exit the stage, she would do a little butt wiggle and the audience would erupt in laughter.

Melanie McCoy '22 played the lead of John Worthing and showed great promise with her developing presence leading the stage. Her stoic attitude and steady demeanor anchored a cast intent on drawing the humor out in every scene. Every cast member, in their own way, contributed to making this play a success.

The Importance of Being Earnest was an enjoyable evening with a cast one can look forward to seeing in future Muhlenberg College Theater productions. For a listing of future plays and performances, go to muhlenberg.edu/theatre&dance.

Rosh Hashanah: Ringing in the sweet new year

By Danny Milkis
Staff Writer

Rosh Hashanah marks the holiday of the Jewish New Year. The celebration on Monday and Tuesday ushers in the year 5780, according to the Jewish calendar, and is the beginning of the High Holy Days. Rosh Hashanah officially began this year at sundown on Sunday, Sept. 29 and will end at sundown on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

The day itself is characterized by a number of religious services and traditions unique to the Jewish High Holidays, which includes Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the ten days in between. One of the most well-known of these traditions is the blowing of the *shofar*. During the high holidays, it is customary for a ram's horn, or *shofar*, to be blown a total of one hundred times during the morning service, and at several other points throughout the day, which varies in experience from person to person depending on their individual levels of religious observance. Among the reasons behind the use of the shofar is in recreating the grandeur of welcoming a king to coronation, as well as to signify a sense of repentance.

Another long-celebrated tradition is the *Tashlich* ceremony, which derives itself from the verse "And You shall cast their sins into the depths of the sea." During this practice, people gather by a body of water, and after saying a few prayers, throw pieces of bread into the water in order to symbolically cleanse themselves of the sins of the past year, and start off the year with a clean slate.

"There really is no other school that I can think of where I would feel so comfortable just expressing myself."

In addition, there is a known tradition of ceremonially lighting candles in the evenings, as well as eating of customary foods. These include apples dipped in honey, which fittingly signify the blessing of a sweet New Year, parts of the heads of certain animals to symbolize the "head" of the year being on the birthday of the universe and carrot-and-pomegranate-based dishes to show the desire for a year filled with abundance and surplus.

Sticking with the topic of food, there is also a long-standing precedent, with roots in Ashkenazi Jewish literature, that explains that eating nuts is discouraged on Rosh Hashanah due to the fact that eating too many of them is known to impact the enunciation of certain words.

Since there is an amount of prayer that spans a number of hours during the High Holiday season, it is important for those taking part in the rituals to be able to speak clearly and consistently over this extended period of time.

Here at Muhlenberg, there are a number of ways to get involved in all that Rosh Hashanah has to offer, even if Judaism doesn't align with one's beliefs. Ari Perten, Campus Rabbi and Associate College Chaplain, gave many insights into ways that students can learn and explore all of the blessings of this holy day. Perten focused mainly on the inclusivity of Hillel, and the inviting nature of the services.

"Rosh Hashanah is a day where we celebrate Creation and is a time for new beginnings," says Rabbi Perten. "I think that is something that everyone should be able to share in, no matter what their religious affiliation."

Perten went on to explain more about how Hillel works to benefit the student body, and how the notion of inclusivity governs the approach he wants to take in allowing the Jewish culture to inspire the campus as a whole.

"I don't want anyone to feel like Hillel isn't somewhere that they can go. I feel that what we do is build and foster a community, and it should be a place where people come to reflect, share experiences and hopefully discover more about themselves on a spiritual level," he said.

Since Muhlenberg is an ever-changing campus with a wide array of vibrant and colorful values and beliefs, there are an increasing number of students, faculty, staff and administration members working hard in an effort to enrich the integration and understanding of as many traditions, lifestyles and perspectives as possible.

"This is a very special campus," said an anonymous student involved in weekly Shabbat services and dinners at Hillel. "Muhlenberg is a place ahead of its time, and the students here are so dedicated to making sure it stays that way. There really is no other school that I can think of where I would feel so comfortable just expressing myself."

All in all, the holiday seems to be a binding force both at Muhlenberg College, and a time for new beginnings is exactly what the whole notion of college suggests: a time to rightfully forget the woes of the past and look ahead to a bright future and to set brand new goals. Perten finished the interview by saying, "Hillel extends long after the High Holidays. We have services and dinners every week, and I hope to see as many new faces there as possible."

Artist of the week: Steffi Lamb

By Becca Baitel
Contributing Writer

New to Muhlenberg, first-year student Steffi Lamb '23 is already making strides, or paintbrush strokes, in the campus community as an artist. Having had an interest in art since she was very young, Lamb describes her first inspirations to create after she began looking at pieces of art that her brother drew and wanting to recreate them in her own way.

"It was one of my favorite things to do when I was younger," Lamb commented. "I remember that whenever I had free time, I would draw. I also loved to make cards for people's birthdays, too."

What started out as a hobby has turned into a lifelong passion. While Lamb used art as a creative outlet growing up, she started to "get more serious" with art as a sophomore in high school. Through her AP Studio Art class that she took as a senior, she began to deepen her practice and create more abstract, detailed work, adding painting to her artistic style.

Last year, she also created twelve paintings portraying the story of a mermaid. Her love for creating has never gone away, as she plans to minor in Studio Art and is currently taking a Drawing Studio class to learn more techniques and improve her skills.

"Bursting at the Seams" by Steffi Lamb '23.

Lamb describes her style as "more abstract than realistic," and loves leaving her art up for interpretation when people view her pieces. She cites music as one of her biggest inspirations for creating, and says that a lot of her pieces turn out the way they do based on the kind of music she listens to while she works on them. "For example, if I'm listening to slow songs, my piece turns out more smooth and blended, while if I listen to more upbeat songs, you can definitely see more brushstrokes appear in my paintings, and they seem to be sharper than others," Lamb explained.

As in her art, Lamb does not put limits on her musical choices, describing her taste as "a wide variety of just about everything."

Lamb enjoys painting faces and human figures the most, and her favorite artistic medium is acrylic paint. Her love for abstract art usually adds a unique and unexpected twist in her work, usually portraying more of a "non-realistic" feel.

Lamb enjoys painting and drawing 2D figures with specific details that make her work stand out. In her portfolio, she has a wide array of different figures and faces, all with hidden meanings of their own.

"I would say I really get inspired based off of real life situations that may or may not have happened to me or someone I know," she commented. "But also, I sometimes create a story in my head that I want to illustrate in a piece or a series of pieces."

Steffi Lamb '23 shares her passion for painting.

One of her pieces that tells a story is a piece Lamb created in her high school AP art class called "Bursting at the Seams." In this specific piece, she tackles the issue of eating disorders and mental health, and offers a perspective of someone dealing with such struggles.

"The meaning behind the piece is that people with some sort of mental disorder have a different personality than it may seem," she explains. "I really like this painting because of its meaning, but also because of its style with all the visible brushstrokes and the contrast between black, white and all the colors."

Upon speaking to Lamb, it is very clear that creating is her passion, and she has many plans for future art pieces. She can't wait for her next projects and looks forward to further exploring the arts at Muhlenberg.

Coloring outside the lines: Allentown ArtsFest 2019

By Corinne Battistelli
Contributing Writer

Allentown is often overlooked as a great city. Take a look around, and it has color and beauty everywhere. An artistic city, Allentown is home to a theater district and an art museum. But who wants to be inside as the last warm rays of the year are beating down?

Luckily, this weekend marked the sixth annual ArtsFest, a free, outdoor festival hosted in Cedar Beach Park organized by The Alternative Gallery, a local nonprofit. Spanning three days, artists gathered from near and far to exhibit their talents in the perfect environment, transforming Cedar Beach into a bustling hub of creativity. "A unique mix of the fine and fringe arts," according to the event's brochure, ArtsFest has something for everyone.

Watching the artists at their craft was almost mesmerizing.

While walking into the festivities, a designated area marked "Welcome Buskers" set the inclusive tone of this event, as buskers, musicians who perform in public for money, are usually not accepted. Street art was also given an opportunity to shine. Set up in the grass against the lake were large blank canvases, where graffiti artists could be seen in all stages of their processes.

Some of the canvases were home to more traditional-looking graffiti art and styles. Others had faces so realistic they looked as if they were about to come right off the canvas. Watching the artists at their craft was almost mesmerizing. Seeing the idea evolve from where it started to how it ended up was a neat experience unique to ArtsFest.

There was so much to take part in. Interactive crafts and demos were sprinkled throughout the weekend to keep the attendees engaged. A small dance floor had kids showing off their best hip-hop moves. The tennis court was turned into a skatepark, with both open skate times and competitions. There were also improv and comedy sketches. A magician was performing for children and their parents.

For those curious about what the future may hold, Kathi was available to read tarot cards. This year marked her fourth at ArtsFest. Kathi asserts that she has always had a gift, having been able to tell a good or bad person or annoy her mother as a girl by being able to identify who was calling before the phone was answered. However, she did not start reading tarot cards until she was twelve. After seeing them in a James Bond movie in the 70s, Kathi went to a new age store and bought her first deck of tarot cards. Initially using it as a party trick, she soon lost the fun of it. Even so, this gave her the idea to start a business. Kathi's readings cover her customer's lives six months to a year in the future.

"When I read the cards, I tell what I see," responded Kathi when talking about the act of tarot. She owns 120 decks of tarot cards. When choosing a card, she picks "whichever one sings" to her. People who come to see her, Kathi recounted, either call her work dead accurate or a hoax. They also usually come in with some preconceived notion of whether they believe it or not.

Known mainly through word-of-mouth, Kathi has managed much success. She even has regulars who come frequently. Even so, she is not in it for the money.

"I believe in and enjoy what I do," says Kathi. "I came to ArtsFest because tarot is art."

Wandering around the park, the sounds of music could be heard drifting through the air. Live performances occurred constantly at three different venues and at the busker stations. With different types of indie, punk, rock, grunge, pop and acoustic music being performed, there were always new sounds to be discovered. While enjoying the music, event-goers could get a beer, refreshing lemonade or iced coffee to beat the heat. Or, if the afternoon hunger pangs were hitting, they could feel free to grab a bite to eat. From poutine to pie, the vendors had choices for both the sweet and savory tastes.

As expected at an art festival, paintings, pictures and the like were prominent. One vendor had hand-carved wooden signs. Another made pictures and symbols using bottle caps. One man could be seen spray painting onto a canvas based on a guide photo. The hand-painted pictures came in all shapes and styles. Eye-catching colors showed scenes of fruit, landscapes, people and animals. Basically, anything imaginable was on display.

One featured artist was Lillian Wunderly. This was her first year at ArtsFest, but she was at Art in the Park this past June. Wunderly started taking art seriously in high school. She got a degree in fine arts from Northampton Community College and is pursuing her masters from the Academy of Art in San Francisco through their online program.

Corinne Battistelli / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Artist See TF spray paints "A Girl With a Pearl Earring" at this Year's ArtsFest.

When asked where she gets her inspiration, Wunderly took a moment and then responded, "What do I want to do? I find that there are specific themes that speak to me."

One day it may be farm animals, another day fruit. She just "feels it out." It stems from everyday life. For example, she saw some beautiful peaches and decided that was what she wanted to draw that day.

Something new that Wunderly is trying out is painting over gemstones. She paints on one side and leaves the other side plain. Her mother gave her the idea to draw inspiration from the color of the gemstone and base the painting on that. The blue stone had an ocean scene and the pink one featured a space picture. They were beautiful and detailed, despite being on a small surface.

"What do I want to do? I find that there are specific themes that speak to me."

If one preferred to wear their art, there were plenty of neat rings, necklaces and bracelets on display. Some were plain and classy, while others could become statement pieces. One vendor had fallen cat whiskers in the jewelry. However, jewelry was not the only wearable art. Henna was available at one stand, while those wishing for something more permanent could get a tattoo just slightly further down the path.

While having many modern aspects, some parts of ArtsFest brought about bouts of nostalgia. One tent was home to retro video game consoles hooked up to old school television sets. Featuring games like NBA Jam and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, kids and adults alike could be found lounging in the shade, enjoying the magic of video games.

If one found vintage movies to be more desirable, Spiral Rewind was the vendor to check out. They have found ways to repurpose old VHS tapes. The tapes can be used to house succulents or can be displayed on a canvas. Spiral Rewind also creates notebooks using VHS sleeves.

ArtsFest is a condensed version of what The Alternative Gallery has going on all year. These highlights shouldn't be missed. ArtsFest will be back at the end of September next year, so take note and make sure to check it out!

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Qu'est-ce que c'est?

You might have noticed that the article directly to the right of this one is written in French. No, this isn't a catastrophic mistake wrought by our layout software or a copy-and-paste mix-up with one of our editors' language requirement homework. It's a little something new we're trying out here at The Weekly, something that, to our knowledge, has never consistently been done before in the paper's 136-year history.

Muhlenberg College is a complicated place. It doesn't sound right to say it's "immensely diverse" — according to the college's Instagram page, the Class of 2023 is 80.9% white, for example — and yet the diversity that the college does contain is real, palpable, vibrant, active and beautiful. Thriving, student-led organizations such as Comunidad Latinx, the Unchained Theatre Collective, Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC), the Muhlenberg Disability Advocacy Group (MDAG) and so many more provide support networks for marginalized folks who might not feel so safe anywhere else on campus. Students like Em Panetta '20, whose opinion piece about gender neutral bathrooms has already motivated the college to change their virtual map of the campus, speak their minds about issues that matter to them and enact change in real time. Students, faculty and staff work to forge lasting community connections each and every day.

If there's one thing that can be said about Muhlenberg, it's that we're striving to be better, to do better, even if what ends up getting done isn't always enough. And all of that labor, all of that showing up, cannot fall on the shoulders of marginalized students alone. We at The Weekly think it's time to make sure that the space we inhabit better reflects the diversity that exists on this campus.

That's why, for the rest of this academic year, it is our goal to publish one article per week in a language other than English.

Every choice that we make, especially in terms of the words that we use, is a political one. It is political to pick one word over another, even if they might initially seem to be synonyms. It is, too, a political choice to publish only in English, though this choice is buried in the ideologies by which we are constantly surrounded and of which we are rarely aware. We print in English mostly because it's easy; because it's supposed to be a *lingua franca*, a common denominator; and because it's the only language, admittedly, that any of our current editors speak fluently.

What we don't usually see are the implications of those statements. Why is English meant to be a common denominator between other languages? (Of course, this is rooted in colonialism and imperialism and manifest destiny and other English words that describe the ravaging of many hundreds of thousands of cultures by white Europeans.) What is stolen when one set of words is forced out of someone's mouth or slapped out of their hands in exchange for another set, when shame is pushed upon some for their accents and praise piled upon others? Most importantly, perhaps, how can those who were stolen from reclaim what was lost?

It is here, dear reader, that we turn to you. Do you journal in Japanese? Craft poetry in Polish? Do you free-write in French, pen songs in Spanish, assert your opinions in Arabic? If you feel most comfortable writing in another language, send us an email at weeklyeditor@gmail.com along with your topics of interest and the language in which you want to write. If you have your own story idea, that's great — send that along, too! Otherwise, we'll match you with one of our section editors, who will assign you a story within their section for that week. Your article, whether it's an opinion piece about the current state of politics or a review of a mainstage theatrical production or a recap of the football team's latest game, will be printed alongside all the rest. An English translation will be made available online, just as it is with this week's article by Sarah Coffel '21, should readers choose to engage with it. The focus, though, will be on the words you chose and the language you chose to express them in.

Muhlenberg is a complicated, beautiful, problematic and miraculous place. Let's celebrate who we are—who all of us are—by giving every single one of us the room to do more than exist. Let's give everyone on this campus enough room to flourish.

Speaking Your Language
La marque d'infamie de notre santé mentale

Sarah Coffel
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Tout le monde sentira l'angoisse et le stress pendant la vie — c'est normal. Bien que ces sentiments soient une grande partie de nos expériences, quand nous les relions à notre état mentale, beaucoup de personnes réagissent négativement.

On pense peut-être que, sur un campus comme Muhlenberg, qui est petit et aimable, les conversations sur la santé mentale serait plus courantes, mais elles ne sont pas.

Cet été, j'ai vu le spectacle du Sedehi Diversity Project (SDP), qui a utilisé les entretiens des étudiants de Muhlenberg pour le script. Je le regarde chaque été avant le début de la nouvelle année scolaire comme un "Orientation Leader" et ce spectacle en particulier m'est intéressé parce qu'il a discuté le thème de l'état mental.

Une des conversations du spectacle a montré une interaction entre deux étudiants.

Un de ces participants a discuté comment il était déprimé et son copain a répondu "idem!" comme il était amusant.

Souvent, je vois que la discussion de la dépression et de l'anxiété n'est pas pris au sérieux. Beaucoup de personnes fait des blagues quand ils discutent de ces sujets, qui peuvent en faire certaines inconfortables. Pour une raison que je ne peux pas comprendre, il est plus facile de faire des blagues que d'être honnête.

En général, l'université soutient les étudiants, particulièrement avec l'état mentale. Le problème n'est pas avec l'université, mais avec la culture que les étudiants créent.

Comme les étudiants à l'université, nous avons une responsabilité de grandir et de s'améliorer, mais en même-temps nous avons besoin d'apprendre comment de prendre soin de nous-mêmes. Comment est-ce que nous pouvons le faire, si les gens qui nous entourent chaque jour ne travaillent pas ensemble afin d'améliorer la conversation ?

Pendant nos quatre années ici, nous voyons beaucoup de changements sur le campus, comme les nouveaux bâtiments, services et opportunités. Le centre pour la psychothérapie à Muhlenberg a beaucoup amélioré son temps de réponse aux étudiants pendants aux années récentes, juste un des espaces que les étudiants peuvent utiliser comme une ressource.

Un de nos buts pour les années suivantes devrait améliorer cette conversation, afin de la normaliser. Personne ne devrait se sentir seul ou penser que leurs problèmes sont des blagues.

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY
In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY
The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS
The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

The problems with 'Berg
Our victor laments

Will Wamser
Op/ed Editor

Muhlenberg is a dapper little place with a dapper little community, but there are at least three definite glaring problems that everyone is aware of, but everyone is too fearful to speak up about. You might know the last person to speak out against Muhlenberg, her name was Vigilance. Look at her now, stone cold dead. Silenced by big 'Berg. Despite this horrifying truth, I'm not afraid to talk about Muhlenberg.

Muhlenberg is bad, but how bad is it? Okay, not that bad. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't or can't criticize things we want to change. I have heard your complaints. I will sacrifice myself and speak for the people of 'Berg. Just call me Martyr the Mule.

I have heard your complaints. I will sacrifice myself and speak for the people of 'Berg. Just call me Martyr the Mule.

'Berg Communication

We never know when events are, where events are or what events are. What is an event? Nobody has ever told me. There are some fantastic gems of events on campus that get much lower attendance than they deserve; HRL and MAC really outdo themselves sometimes, but how are we supposed to know? It's because communication is so bad on campus. So bad, in fact, that we don't even have ONE working phone booth. We need at least one phone booth per residential building. It just doesn't make sense. We have a quarter machine in Prosser specifically for phone booths, but there is not one working booth in sight. I have so many quarters and absolutely nowhere to put them, and I know I'm not alone in this.

'Berg Clothing

Why do my clothes smell so much? It must be something in the air at Muhlenberg, which desperately needs to be changed. Everyone always tells me how badly I smell, so I know this problem doesn't only affect me. This wouldn't be such a big issue if there was more private space on campus. Everyone knows that there is no better solution to having private space than issuing every student their own inflatable hamster ball to run to class in. The hamster balls will be one-size-fits-all so all students get equal space. You might notice that this does not fix the stinky Muhlenberg air that gets all over your clothes, and it does not help those on campus who are not students.

'Berg Waste Management

Campus smells, and there is only one clear reason: campus is covered in garbage. We have so much left-over food from events, not a day goes by where I do not see Parents Plaza absolutely littered in hoagies. This can easily be fixed with the implementation of Scratch 'n Sniff paper. Professors are constantly having us print out massive amounts of paper, so why not make the paper smell good once we have to throw it away? It'll cover up all those hoagies, and our clothes will surely not smell so bad anymore. Oh, wait, I've just been told that we recycle paper, we don't throw it out, this plan no longer works. Okay. Plan B. Muhlenberg can spray out the same good smell air as Walt Disney World Florida. Case closed.

There you have it. I have offered up some common problems, and some very easy solutions. Phone booths. Hamster balls. Scratch 'n Sniff Paper. I hope, and I know Muhlenberg will continue to change for the better, I'm just glad to be a part of the process. If I should be turned to stone, pass on my legacy. If I am not turned to stone, I will take thanks in the form of a firm high five.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Mainstream comics' plight; webcomics' delight

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

Sometimes I get so wrapped up in complaining about how DC is mishandling my favorite characters that I forget that I actually like comics. It's a cyclical thing: a big event happens, it does something stupid across all the titles, I ragequit reading comics for a while. However, I miss it and inevitably return just to start all over again. Right now I'm in a weird in-between spot, still not quite ready to return to Batgirl and Titans but missing the visual storytelling and weekly excitement of an addition to the story. So, I've turned to webcomics.

I've talked about webcomics before, because they are fantastic and so clever; with inventive original stories and unique art styles, there's literally something for everyone. What's even more impressive is that almost all of them are free. Artists and writers may ask for donations or support on Patreon in return for extras, but the comics themselves are available to read online. They're shared in the hopes that other people might enjoy them.

I like fantasy stories, especially those based on fairy tales, folklore or myths, and two webcomics that I've been reading lately are just that.

The Fisherman's Favour by Laura Simons and Débora Carbal is a fairy tale that follows what happens when a fisherman from a small village who loves the sea catches a merman in his net and sets him free. It's based heavily on tales like *The Little Mermaid* and *The Fisherlad and the Mermaid's Ring* where there is a romance between a fisherman and a mermaid, though the author wanted to write something that is more of a true love story than the traditional folklore.

This webcomic is currently ongoing and updates every Monday. The art style is soft and very cute with sepia-like coloring and so far the story has been very sweet, giving background on the main character and recently getting to the favor mentioned in the title. I've always loved Ariel and *The Little Mermaid*, so I'm excited to see how this turns out. Hopefully the creators hold true to their allusions and no one turns to seafoam in the end.

I've also been reading *Granted* by Sam on Tapas.io — previously Taptastic — a webcomic hosting site. *Granted* follows the adventures of Lee, who finds a genie in an app on her phone. When the genie takes some liberties interpreting her wish, Lee winds up playing the hero in a fantasy quest. The comic plays with tropes and the idea of what would happen if you were suddenly thrown into the type of adventures found in books, but without any of the knowledge or skills that the hero normally gets.

They are fantastic and so clever; with inventive original stories and unique art styles, there's literally something for everyone.

The art is bold and bright with unique and distinct character designs. While it hasn't been updated in about a year, the comic consists of 88 segments and a couple of mini story arcs. Unfortunately, the last update ends on a cliffhanger — almost literally. However, it's still worth the read; Lee the main character is extremely relatable, and the genie she deals with is kind of a jerk but makes things interesting.

There are so many more webcomics out there hosted on sites like Tapas, Tumblr and Deviantart — yes, it's still kicking — you've just got to look for them, but there's bound to be one that you'll love.

Three Mules sack up the honors

As Mules continue to bring home the awards, the next game remains the main focus

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

Muhlenberg's thrilling win over Susquehanna on Sept. 21 will have major implications for the Mules throughout the course of the remainder of the season. The Mules, seeking to win an outright Centennial Conference Championship and head back to the NCAA Tournament, took a huge step towards their goal by defeating a talented Riverhawks team that came off of a major conference win against reigning conference champ Johns Hopkins.

While the squad's main focus is on working towards the goals they set at the beginning of the year, members of the nationally ranked Mules and the current Centennial Conference leaders were awarded for their outstanding play both against Susquehanna and throughout the course of their careers.

Defensive End Frankie Feaster '21 has previously been awarded for his play by the Centennial Conference on offense during his freshman season as a tight end. Last season after an astounding season on the defensive line, Feaster found himself in a new position. After blocking two punts against Susquehanna, Feaster was awarded Centennial Conference Special Teams Player of the Week.

Tight End Ryan Curtiss '20 was rewarded once again for his play by d3football.com. Curtiss, who has earned third-team and first-team All-American honors from d3football.com since arriving at Muhlenberg, earned another honor from the website, as he was named to the team of the week for the second time in his career after scoring two touchdowns.

"Having [my family] on the field was something very special and ultimately winning the game was something I will remember for a long time."

During halftime of the Susquehanna game, Quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky '21 was awarded the Sidney G. Weikert Sophomore Athlete of the Year Award. The award, named after former associate director of admissions at Muhlenberg and alumnus Sydney Weikert, honors a Muhlenberg Sophomore athlete for their excellent play on the field and academic performance.

During his sophomore season, Hnatkowsky set single-season records for passing yards and touchdowns and helped lead the Mules to their most successful postseason finish in school history. In front of a large homecoming crowd, Hnatkowsky's achievement was announced over the loudspeaker at Scotty Wood Stadium. He accepted the award at midfield as he was accompanied by both his family and members of the Weikart family.

"Being honored at halftime was truly an honor for myself and my family," Hnatkowsky reflected. "Having them on the field was something very special and ultimately winning the game was something I will remember for a long time."

Even with winning an abundance of individual awards, the Mules' attention in the locker room was steered towards celebrating a huge victory and building off of their success.

Hnatkowsky remarked, "We do not really talk about the honors, which I believe is crucial for our success. We love celebrating with our guys on and off the field, and our team camaraderie is unmatched, in my opinion. This is what will allow us to be good moving forward. We will continue to take this one day at a time, which will keep us very focused."

This past Saturday, the Mules earned another Centennial Conference victory over Juniata. With the Mules continuing to exert their dominance over their Centennial Conference opponents, the Mules are looking to defeat a 3-1 Franklin & Marshall squad this coming Saturday and continue to inch towards their goal of winning a Conference Championship.

"The next thing for us is Franklin & Marshall College. This is the most important game because it is the next one," Hnatkowsky added. "We are excited for this challenge and a week of great preparation will be crucial for our success. The next achievement is the ability for us to get better every day. Long-term will hopefully be a Centennial Conference Championship, but for now, we are taking this journey day by day."

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Michael Hnatkowsky '21 throws the football during his record setting year in 2018.

from **Title IX** page 12

time victory that brought them to 6-2 overall.

For the women of Muhlenberg Athletics and for all involved, the "Play for Equity" games meant something truly special. Veteran soccer star Karolyn Kawa '20 was certainly thrilled to have been a part of the movement to bring awareness to the issues around Title IX at Muhlenberg.

"As a woman and a Muhlenberg athlete, it was very important to me to raise awareness for Title IX," said Kawa. "The Title IX Awareness games created a conversation about the topic of equity and its emphasis on impartiality rather than just equality."

Kawa further explained what exactly Muhlenberg was able to accomplish with these games.

"As the incident that occurred at Kent State wasn't broadly publicized, Muhlenberg was able to spread the word about the possible violation of Title IX," Kawa said. "The games gave Muhlenberg a chance to highlight their support for equal and fair opportunities and share knowledge with the Muhlenberg community about the current relevance of Title IX."

In addition to bringing awareness, there is more that Kawa hopes will spring from these games, including an enhancement of the relationship between Muhlenberg Athletics and its fans.

"I hope this day can rally fans behind all Muhlenberg sports teams. The physical and mental toughness of each team creates a high level of competition that gives Muhlenberg immense pride. The passion, fearlessness and dedication demonstrated by all of the athletes creates an environment for great sports entertainment, regardless of gender," Kawa added.

However, the entire day could not have been made possible without the leadership and determination of Chloe Buergenthal '21 of Muhlenberg field hockey, who, along with the rest of her team, decided to make the day a reality.

"The... games created a conversation about the topic of equity and its emphasis on impartiality rather than just equality."

"After talking with my team and deciding that this was something we were all passionate about, I told Lily Otu, Assistant Director of Athletics for Student-Athlete Development, who I happen to be working with through my athletics internship, that my team and I were interested in playing a Title IX Awareness game after hearing of the events that occurred at Kent State. From there, she directed me towards M.A.L.T., and then I began to organize," Buergenthal said.

For Buergenthal, the purpose of advocating for Title IX awareness goes beyond being an athlete and her identification as a woman. Rather, this endeavor spoke to her as an individual.

"While being a woman and an athlete on campus may have made me more aware of the importance of Title IX, this opportunity to promote Title IX information was important to me not because I'm an athlete who happens to identify as a woman, but because I'm an individual who believes in equity, and I see Title IX as an integral piece of that," she added.

With the success of "Play for Equity," Buergenthal hopes to educate the Muhlenberg community about the policies set in place entirely for the sake of the people.

"I'm hoping that the playing of these games will show the Muhlenberg community that there are people on campus and procedures in place to help them in a large variety of ways, all catered to them," Buergenthal continued. "I also wanted to raise students' intellect concerning Title IX policies, both nationally and here at Muhlenberg, so that they will be versed in the equality that they are entitled to, and now know that they don't have to tolerate any kind of discrimination or harassment."

For the future of Title IX, Buergenthal only has one desire.

"I hope that it becomes more and more inclusive, progressive and efficient as we become a society that sees its own shortcomings and failures," she concluded. "I also hope to see a day in which it can be universally agreed that legislation like Title IX is not only mandatory, but necessary."

‘Berg women’s basketball season preview

Following an early playoff exit in 2018-19, the Lady Mules are ready to make another championship run

By Jordan Fisch
Contributing Writer

After reaching the Conference playoffs last season, the Women’s Basketball team hopes to come into the 2019-2020 season and improve upon their 15-11 record from last year. The 2018-2019 season for the Mules was certainly one to be proud of, and it shows that there are great things ahead for this team. After winning their first nine games, the team went on to drop their next six before riding a four-game win streak. They would then go on to trade wins and losses for the rest of the season, ultimately managing to reach the Centennial Conference playoffs, where they would unfortunately lose their first game to Ursinus.

It’s a diverse and different team this year, where everyone must contribute positively.

“What our team needs to do this season in order to remain a top contender for the playoffs is to play to our strengths,” said Ashley Polera ‘20.

“We need to start the season with the mindset of winning each day. Each game is important and we need to bring a lot of energy every single day.”

“We have a lot of very talented players who each have their own individual special strengths, and we need to be confident in those abilities,” Polera added.

However, the team definitely feels that they could have performed better last year.

“We didn’t finish the season the way we wanted to last year, even though we made it to the playoffs,” said Emilie Benton ‘20. “This year we are looking to return to the playoffs, and the ultimate goal is a conference championship and a run in the NCAA tournament,” Benton continued.

Luckily, their defense does not need much improvement, allowing only 52.07 points per game last season, the lowest allowed by the program since the beginning of the shot-clock era.

As long as they play to their strengths, the team will have nothing but success going into this season. “During times in our season where we were not playing our best...we tried to do things differently and [were] out of our comfort zones,” said Polera.

Staying on target will be key this year if the Lady Mules want to be successful in 2019-2020. “We need to stay focused on our goals and play our best every single day, both [in] practices and games,” said Benton. “We are a competitive team and everyone wants another championship, so we’re excited to get started,” she stated.

While their season may not start till Nov. 9, when the Lady Mules tip off at Salisbury, preseason beginning Oct. 15 means the Mules must get back into the swing of things.

“We work very hard in the pre-season to get ourselves back in physical and mental shape for the start of our season. Our trainer has us lifting three times a week, conditioning twice a week and we play pick up together three times a week as well. Having the opportunity to play with and train with one another builds our team chemistry and gives us the chance to learn how we play with one another before practices begin,” Polera said.

Getting in shape for the season is going to be crucial to the team’s success this year. Their trip to Italy has also been key to helping this team. “We started playing in August when the team traveled to Italy. We had two very tough games abroad and we learned what we need to work on before the season starts. Even though official practices don’t start until Oct. 15, we’ve been playing pickup games along with lifting and conditioning almost every day,” said Benton. “We take these very seriously and we try to get better every day. As our strength and conditioning coach Darin Thomas says, ‘Are you getting better or are you getting by?’ We’ve been working hard and hope to see the results once games start,” added Benton.

“We have a lot of very talented players who each have their own individual special strengths, and we need to be confident in those abilities.”

Polera completely agrees with Benton on the impactfulness of Coach Thomas’s words. “That saying pushes us to challenge each other every day and is a driving factor that will get us back to the top of the Centennial Conference this year,” Polera made clear.

However, the ladies need to deal with the loss of six integral seniors. While this may seem like a daunting task, they seem to be up for the challenge. This team’s mindset is to prove that even though they lost those six key players to graduation, they are as good as they have ever been.

Redemption is on their minds this season. “It’s always hard to lose a senior class, especially one [that] was so big and carried a large leadership role on the team. However, this year we intend to prove that our tradition of success does not leave with each graduating class,” said Polera. “Last year, there were many obstacles our team faced, and that hindered our ability to achieve the goals we set out for that year, but that is not what the result of this year will be,” she added.

They are motivated to not only reach the playoffs, but to get farther than they did last year. “The seniors were a big part of the team last year, so this year everyone knows that each person needs to step up. We still have the same goal of winning another championship. That’s always the end goal,” said Benton.

“We need to start the season with the mindset of winning each day. Each game is important, and we need to bring a lot of energy every single day,” said Benton. “We can’t wait to get the season started and hope that we see lots of people coming to the games and supporting our team.”

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

The Lady Mules tip off their season with Salisbury on Nov. 9.

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules Organize "Play for Equity" Games

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Organizing the "Play for Equity" games was a team effort for the women of Muhlenberg field hockey, spearheaded by Chloe Buergenthal '21.

Muhlenberg athletics raises Title IX awareness with first-annual "Play for Equity" games

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

On Saturday, Sept. 28, the women of Muhlenberg soccer, volleyball and field hockey each participated in their respective "Play for Equity" games, organized by the Muhlenberg Athletic Leadership Team (M.A.L.T.) to bring awareness to Title IX and the continuing fight for equality. Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 defends individuals from discrimination based on sex in education programs or other programs receiving financial aid.

Men's soccer also took part in the event, taking on Swarthmore at the Varsity Field. Raising awareness for such a cause is crucial, not only for its long-standing relevance, but also for the fact that it is more prevalent than ever. Not too far removed from the incident at Kent State surrounding the Temple and Maine women's field hockey teams, where the double-overtime showdown was declared a no contest so Kent State's football team could get on the field and begin their game. This serves as a reminder that this is an important time to shed light on such a significant topic.

The day was jam-packed with excitement with four games on the menu. Both women's soccer and field hockey took on Centennial Conference (C.C.) rival, Dickinson, while men's soccer squared off with Swarthmore, and the Lady Mules of volleyball served up a doubleheader with Dickinson and DeSales.

As the day concluded, both soccer games would end in a stalemate and volleyball would fall in a nailbiter from beginning to end, while the ladies of field hockey would pull out a 1-0 over-

see Title IX page 10

Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Oct. 4-5

Field Hockey
Muhlenberg vs Montclair
Friday, Oct. 4 @ 7:00 pm
Montclair, N.J.

Women's Golf
All-American Fall Invitational
Saturday, Oct. 5 @ 9:30 am
Carlisle Barracks Golf Club

Football
Muhlenberg vs Franklin & Marshall
Saturday, Oct. 5 @ 1:00 pm
Lancaster, PA

Men's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Oct. 5 @ 1:00 pm
Baltimore, MD

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 5
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Muhlenberg goes Wild

read more on page 3

Photo Courtesy of The Office of Congresswoman Susan Wild

Congresswoman Susan Wild addresses her attentive audience at the Town Hall on Oct. 2 in the Event Space.

NEWS
Former Muhlenberg English major Trish Donnelly '88 returned to campus to speak about her experiences working for Urban Outfitters as CEO.
read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE
Muhlenberg alum and Music Department faculty member Lauren Curnow Madigan performed songs by a variety of composers at the Madigan Faculty Recital.
read more on 5

Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

OP/ED
Though protests in Hong Kong resulted in the successful withdrawl of the proposed extradition bill, tensions between police and citizens still continue to rise.
read more on 8

SPORTS
The golf season has ended, and with noticeable consistent improvement, the group has their sights set on the spring semester.
read more on 11

'Berg professor and alumnus fight for Tobacco 21

By Casey Elkin
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 26, 2019, faculty, staff and students of Pennsylvania colleges gathered at The Tobacco-Free College Campus Summit held at Kalahari Resorts Pocono Conference Center.

The conference, organized by The American Lung Association (ALA), was designed for college and university administrators, faculty, staff, policy advocates and students striving towards tackling the question of creating a "successful and effective tobacco-free campus" at colleges and universities.

Among the presenters were Muhlenberg Professor of Media and Communication Susan Kahlenberg and Muhlenberg alum Adrian Shanker '09, who presented together on the topic of "Engaging Students with Tobacco-Free Policies." This topic is especially relevant to the

"It is really about preventing youth access to tobacco in high school."

Muhlenberg community because of the new Smoke and Vape Free campus policy implemented this past August.

Kahlenberg and Shanker's presentation offered a unique approach to tobacco-free policies centered on media advocacy and action such as Tobacco 21, a campaign designed to raise the minimum legal selling age of tobacco to 21.

"It is really about preventing youth access to tobacco in high schools," Shanker explained.

"Our presentation was focused on student engagement," added Kahlenberg.

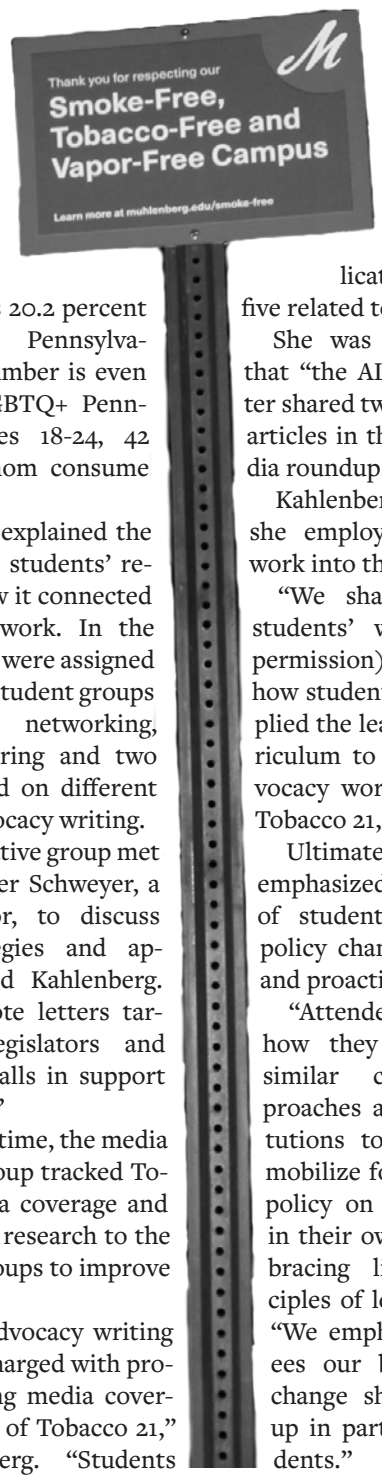
The presentation featured work from Kahlenberg's Media Advocacy class, a 300-level Integrative Learning course (IL) in the Media and Communication Department.

"Media Advocacy introduces students to the strategic use of media to advance public health and social justice," said Kahlenberg. "Students investigate principles, ethics and theories underlying media advocacy, monitor and analyze media framing and message development and use both traditional and new communication tools to construct and implement media interventions."

During the course, students partnered with the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center to work on a variety of projects related to Tobacco 21.

The Center, founded by Shanker in 2016, is the Lehigh Valley's first-ever LGBTQ+ community center. Since graduating Muhlenberg in '09, Shanker has become a recognized LGBTQ+ activist, working with organizations like the ACLU as well as with the Pennsylvania government to further LGBTQ+ rights.

Shanker has especially worked to address tobacco use within the LGBTQ+ community, co-authoring "Queer and Quitting: Addressing Tobacco Use as an LGBTQ Issue" as a chapter in *The Routledge Handbook for LGBTQIA Administration and Policy*. His research on the subject shows the significant disparities between tobacco use in the LGBTQ+ community and the general population. 18.5 percent of the general population consumes tobacco, while that number is 20.2 percent for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians. That number is even higher for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians ages 18-24, 42 percent of whom consume tobacco.



Kahlenberg explained the process of her students' research and how it connected to Shanker's work. In the class, students were assigned to one of four student groups — legislative networking, media monitoring and two groups focused on different aspects of advocacy writing.

"The legislative group met with. Rep. Peter Schweyer, a local legislator, to discuss tactics, strategies and approaches," said Kahlenberg. "Students wrote letters targeting PA legislators and made phone calls in support of Tobacco 21."

In the meantime, the media monitoring group tracked Tobacco 21 media coverage and provided their research to the other three groups to improve their projects.

"The two advocacy writing groups were charged with proactively earning media coverage in support of Tobacco 21," said Kahlenberg. "Students wrote letters to the editor and opinion editorials to local, regional and national news outlets from the college student point of view, with the class yielding a total of 11 publications overall and five related to Tobacco 21."

She was excited to share that "the ALA PACT newsletter shared two of the published articles in their statewide media roundup."

Kahlenberg highlighted how she employed her students' work into the presentation.

"We shared examples of students' work (with their permission)...to demonstrate how students adapted and applied the learnings of our curriculum to develop their advocacy work associated with Tobacco 21," said Kahlenberg.

Ultimately, Kahlenberg emphasized the importance of students advocating for policy change independently and proactively.

"Attendees gained ideas on how they could construct similar collaborative approaches at their own institutions to get students to mobilize for tobacco control policy on their own terms, in their own voices and embracing liberal arts principles of learning," she said. "We emphasized to attendees our belief that policy change should be bottom-up in partnership with students."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, September 30

Harassment - 2:00 a.m.
Report of harassment by communication in Brown Hall. Investigation to continue.

Tuesday, October 1

Sick Student - 10:45 p.m.
Report of sick student in Prosser Hall 3rd floor. MCEMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Wednesday, October 2

Injured Visitor - 6:40 a.m.
Report of injured visitor in Seegers Union, individual transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Fire Alarm - 5:51 p.m.
Report of fire alarm from cooking at 2214 Chew Street. System reset.

Thursday, October 3

Disturbance - 12:52 a.m.
Report of disturbance at Phi Mu house. Individuals spoken to, no further incident.

Traffic Accident - 2:20 p.m.
Report of minor traffic accident in Sorority parking lot. Individuals exchanged information, no further incident.

Sick Student - 9:51 p.m.
Report of sick student in South Hall 2nd floor, MCEMS responded, student refused further treatment.

Friday, October 4

Alcohol Violation - 2:30 a.m.
Report of alcohol violations on Gordon Street. Individual identified and arrested by Allentown PD for Public Intoxication and Underage Consumption.

Found Property - 2:12 p.m.
Report of found ID's in East Hall 1st floor, later returned to owner.

Welfare Check - 2:55 p.m.
Report to locate student in Brown Hall 2nd floor, contact made with no further incident.

Saturday, October 5

Welfare Check - 4:24 p.m.
Report to locate student in Brown Hall 1st floor, contact made with no further incident.

Alcohol Violation - 9:05 p.m.
Report of alcohol violations in Brown Hall 1st floor. Individual arrested for Public Intoxication.

Disruptive Conduct - 11:42 p.m.
Report of a noise complaint on N. 22nd street. Disruptive Conduct Reports issued by APD and the College.

Sunday, October 6

Sick Student - 12:13 a.m.
Report of sick student in East Hall, student refused further treatment.

Vandalism - 12:15 p.m.
Report of a broken table in Brown Hall, no suspects at this time.

Found Property - 12:23 p.m.
Report of found backpack in Trexler Library. Backpack placed in lost and found locker.

Disabled Vehicle - 7:14 p.m.
Report to jump start vehicle in Prosser parking lot. Campus Safety successfully started vehicle.

GLOBAL CHEF SHARES THE
FLAVORS OF FRANCE
Muhlenberg College Dining
WHEN: October 21 & 22
WHERE: The Wood Dining Commons
PRESENTED BY
CHEF LIONEL VANDOMME
Chef Vandomme decided to become a chef at the age of 8, and he's been using his passion in the kitchen since then. He is currently the Culinary Director for 9 restaurants at Michelin in Clermont-Ferrand. Before that, he served as a chef for the French Ministry of Defense.
GlobalChef

Susan Wild town hall brings constituents' issues into the limelight

Photo Courtesy of The Office of Congresswoman Susan Wild

Congresswoman Susan Wild speaks.

By Laura Schwarz
News Editor

On Oct. 2, Representative Susan Wild held a town hall in the Seegers Union Event Space, drawing huge crowds of lively constituents (cheering and booing was present throughout), Muhlenberg students and national news media. Following the Sept. 24 announcement that House Democrats would be pursuing an impeachment inquiry against President Trump, Wild's position as a more moderate Democrat in a 'purple' district made the town hall a focus for news outlets looking for her position on impeachment. However, her constituents made clear through their questions that paramount to impeachment hearings were issues like climate change, mental health, public school funding and health insurance access.

Wild began the meeting by stating her current concerns and plans for creating policy relevant to her district and explained how her seat on the Education and Labor Committee would be directly relevant to her constituents' needs.

"When I ran for this seat, what I pledged to do, and I think I'm fulfilling the promise, was to work on issues [t]hat I call the kitchen table: pocketbook issues that matter to the working people in this district, that matter to senior citizens, retirees, people who want to be employed but perhaps aren't able to be because they're disabled or have some other disadvantage," explained Wild. "Those are the things that I spend the vast majority of my time on when I'm in Washington... My very first [committee] choice was Education and Labor, and [it's] because it's the perfect intersection for what is most needed in this district."

One of the first questions at the meeting concerned mental healthcare and the costs of health insurance coverage. Wild has made mental health a focus of her policymaking following her partner's suicide in May.

"I do think we are not doing a very good job in this country of treating mental health issues the same way we treat physical health issues," Wild explained. "I would like to see us get to the point where everybody who needs health care gets it. Health care is a right, it is not a privilege."

Another central issue brought up by constituents was funding inequality in Pennsylvania, and specifically in Allentown public schools. Val Weisler '20 shared her experience working with Allentown high school students and described the inequality she witnessed firsthand there.

"I lead the college admissions mentoring program at William Allen High School, and through working with these students, I've learned that while Parkland High School students receive school busing because they're constituted as a suburban district, William Allen students do not because they're considered an urban district," explained Weisler to Wild. "So the majority of these students are shelling out 60 dollars a month to pay for the public bus to get to school or they are walking 45 minutes from the south side of Allentown at 6:00 a.m. to be able to get there, or because it's not safe, they're simply not going to school, which is causing a chronic absenteeism epidemic in this program. The students don't have 60 dollars a month. They're so much below the poverty line that 100 percent of students at William Allen are receiving free lunch, and that's causing a children's rights issue."

Wild explained that although she is working on improving public school funding with the Education and Labor Committee, she stated that the specific busing issue Weisler brought up is not something she can solve directly.

"I don't think it's as much the suburban/urban distinction as [it] is the property tax base. Parkland has a property tax base to afford a lot of nice things including busing. Allentown does not... If you added the cost of busing to the Allentown School District's budget, it would implode...So it again comes back to fair funding," said Wild. "Unfortunately, much of the education budget is allocated through the states, but at the federal level we can create more funding sources that get passed on to the school districts. We aren't in charge of how the school districts spend their money. That's left up to individual school districts in the state."

Weisler was not satisfied with the congresswoman's answer.

"Susan Wild sits on the Education and Labor Committee," said Weisler. "She preached at the beginning of the meeting that she believes in solving 'kitchen table issues.' I recognize that this is a systemic issue, but it's affecting kids a few blocks away. I wish Rep. Wild had responded with any interest of at least having a conversation about this."

Bringing together two of Wild's central stated policy concerns, the congresswoman later addressed a question about the scarcity of mental health resources in public schools and how the lack of mental illness treatment affects the learning environment for all students.

"I don't believe it should be the job of a teacher to be a mental health counselor, disciplinarian and the numerous other things that teachers are now called upon to do," said Wild. "Mental health problems do not start at age 18. They generally develop earlier in life. I'm a big believer that we should be doing baseline mental health evaluations in the schools the same way we require students to have their vaccinations before they come to school... [to] make sure that [mental health] is being addressed in some way and that these students aren't just being treated as as troublemakers in the schools."

Early in the meeting, it was clear that climate change was a foremost issue among the audience. Maura O'Reilly '20 asked Wild if she would sign on to the Green New Deal (GND) legislation in light of more urgent climate change warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

"I think the Green New Deal is a wonderful statement of aspiration and goals. I have not signed onto it. I have, however, worked very very hard in the climate change space," explained Wild, before stating the climate change initiatives and legislation that she has supported and signed on to. "Here's my problem with the Green New Deal: It hasn't advanced any specific legislation...what I want is to see things done."

While O'Reilly felt her question was addressed adequately, she expressed disappointment that the congresswoman has not changed her stance on the GND since holding her town halls in previous months.

"I was hoping that she would answer differently given the newest IPCC reports and pressure from young people worldwide surrounding the GND and the climate crisis that has happened in the six months since her last town hall," said O' Reilley. "Our generation is relying on the GND to ensure an environmentally safe and equitable future. By asking my question, I hoped to keep the pressure on her regarding the climate crisis and to show that we haven't forgotten her lack of support for the GND, the only tangible and equitable piece of legislation on the table."

Throughout the town hall, Wild also addressed issues related to workers' rights, capitalism and reforming the student loan process.

"We've got pharmaceutical executives who are making millions of dollars a year. We've got corporate executives who are making [a] hundred and forty five times what their average worker is making. These are problems. These are really serious problems. Now, that's not to say I don't believe in capitalism because I do, but unfortunately capitalism has run rampant in this country...we also should not be giving big tax breaks to the one percent and corporations."

The misuse of the "independent contractor" classification was a strong concern for a constituent as well as for Wild.

"The misclassification of workers is what we're talking about," explained Wild. "People who are called independent contractors when in fact they are employees...and it is becoming a major problem because we now are turning to a gig industry where people are hired to drive for Uber or Lyft, and they are not being considered workers, so they are not accruing any money towards retirement...They have no rights to unemployment compensation [or] worker's compensation... This is and has been for some time now a major problem. It's also a fraud. It is a tax fraud for an employer to call somebody and get an independent contractor when they in fact aren't."

Finally, during the town hall, Wild was asked only a few times about the impeachment inquiry, with some constituents expressing anger that the president has not been impeached yet and others complaining that the inquiry might be taking the congresswoman's attention away from other important issues.

To one constituent asking why Rep. Adam Schiff cannot hold those that are not cooperating with the impeachment inquiry in contempt and imprison them, Wild had a firm response:

"Adam Schiff is not a judge."

After being criticized by a student for supposedly ignoring local issues like education in favor of focusing on impeachment proceedings, Wild insisted that that was not the case.

"It is a mistake to think that those of us in Washington are spending all of our time on impeachment," she said. "There will be a few select members of Congress who are spending their time on an impeachment inquiry, not on impeachment itself, and the rest of us will be continuing to work on the problems that you've identified as well as others. And I assure you that my work on education labor is not going to stop because there is an impeachment inquiry happening."

Wild ended the town hall by urging the audience to "vote...out" lawmakers who take campaign donations from lobbyists like the National Rifle Association, and encouraged her constituents to approach her office with their issues.

An Urban legend

Urban Outfitters CEO Trish Donnelly ‘88 reflects on time at ‘Berg

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

Dr. Roland Kushner and Trish Donnelly ‘88 (pictured above).

By Samantha Singman
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 3, students packed into the Red Doors for an event co-hosted by the Career Center as well as the Department of Accounting, Business, Economics and Finance for a Q&A with Muhlenberg alum Trish Donnelly ’88, CEO of Urban Outfitters. With Associate Business Professor Roland Kushner moderating, Donnelly discussed her time at Muhlenberg, being a woman in business and her current successes and challenges with Urban’s business model.

“The liberal arts education really taught me to think critically, to be curious and of all things, it has served me well in my current role as CEO of Urban Outfitters,” shared Donnelly. “That’s really where I learned the very important skills and tools that took my career to where it is now.”

Donnelly entered Muhlenberg as a Business major, but after her first economics class, she switched paths and decided to be an English major. She especially valued her experience studying abroad.

“I had never been overseas before and I did my semester abroad in London, which was awesome,” she said. “And again it opened my world to global possibilities and expanded my world beyond what I knew in Livingston and Allentown.”

Moving closer to her college graduation, Donnelly figured the next steps in her career would be to use her English major in law school, but after doing poorly on the LSATS, she again set her sights elsewhere.

“I knew I loved writing, I loved magazines and I loved fashion, and so I thought: writing, fashion, magazine, journalist maybe, editor someday, and I applied to the NYU School of Journalism and got in,” Donnelly said.

While working towards her masters degree, Donnelly took a job as a receptionist with Ralph Lauren, a position that she had found through a friend.

“From that vantage point, I knew I wasn’t going to be answering phones the rest of my life, but I got to see how a fashion company worked and operated,” she said.

It was from her role at the receptionist desk that she became fascinated with all the different aspects of a major fashion company, so when a position as an assistant buyer opened up, she applied and got the job.

She worked her way up through Ralph Lauren, later becoming an Executive Vice President at J.Crew and then the President of Steven Alan. In 2014 Donnelly was hired as Urban’s President, moving up to CEO in 2016.

Donnelly described how she had always loved the Urban Outfitters brand, recalling her first experience in the store in its early days.

“I remember what I wore, I remember what I bought and I have never had an experience like that at a retail store in my life,” she said. “I bought the cutest little baby tee.”

But in 2014, when she was first offered a position at the company, Donnelly found that she was disappointed in the way Urban was being run at the time. With stores being disorganized and mismanaged, she felt that the brand had lost the romance, value and experience that she had once adored.

Despite the apparent struggle she faced in joining the company at that time, Donnelly found the challenge of revitalising a brand empowering.

“If you get a job offer where you know you can make a difference, that’s the job you should take; you want to go to the place where you want to make a difference,” she explained.

As president and CEO Global of Urban Outfitters, Donnelly oversees all 200 stores in the United States, 65 stores in the EU/UK, eight websites in different languages and home offices located in Philadelphia, London and a newly opened office in China.

Climbing up the rankings at her past and current companies, Donnelly has often found herself to be the only woman in her corporate environment; however, she dismissed any notion that this dynamic ever affected her career negatively.

“I never thought of myself as a female executive,” she explained. “I always thought of myself as an executive. There were certainly times when I was at the table and I happen[ed] to be the only woman. I didn’t over-prepare for those meetings because I was the only woman, I over-prepared because I am ambitious and I wanted to be prepared.”

After concluding her conversation with Kushner, Donnelly wanted to ask students some questions herself about solving different obstacles she has come across in her career.

“I get a google alert on my phone and the BuzzFeed article says: ‘Urban Outfitters manufactures a bloody Kent State sweatshirt that they are selling,’” she said, describing her second day working at Urban. She asked students how they would handle that situation.

After hearing a student’s response, Donnelly explained that her first step was finding out if the situation was true by contacting her marketing and design team. She explained that a buyer had ordered a lot of vintage sweatshirts in bulk, and “as [the design teams] do with a lot of vintage items, [they] over-dye,” coloring vintage clothing to give it a new or distressed look. Out of a bulk shipment of sweatshirts dyed a light pink, she claimed that there was one unfortunate dye mistake which all news stations picked up.

“The fascinating thing is, you craft a response [with the PR team] and you send it to all those media outlets and nobody runs it,” she said about the media coverage of the controversy.

When the Q&A was opened up for questions, Jaelyn Blonder ‘21 asked Donnelly a question targeting Urban’s business ethics: “In light of the new climate change, is Urban doing anything to move forward into a more ethical future?”

Donnelly answered quickly, listing efforts she says her company has embraced to combat environmental issues associated with fast fashion.

“Yes, we know all those issues are very important to you, and you are our customer,” said Donnelly. “We do so much in terms of sustainability, whether it is working with denim factories that use less water, or switching stores to LED lighting; those are just some of the examples of the hundreds of things that we do.”

However, she added, “What we are not good at as a company is communicating that.”

She further explained that Urban is working to establish a sustainability committee, expanding their “Urban Renewal” line of vintage clothes and repurposing deadstock fabric in clothing and for insulation.

Donnelly credits her experiences at Muhlenberg for opening up her mind to a wealth of possibilities. She also shared that she had fond memories, not only of her educational experience at Muhlenberg, but also its social impact.

“I had a really good time here. I had a lot of fun. I made my best friend and lifelong friends,” she said.

Donnelly’s advice to current students? “Listening is not to go underrated.”

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"If music be the food of love, play on."

- William Shakespeare

A little night music from the Muhlenberg faculty

Lauren Curnow Madigan showcases muscial chops

By Alana Noehrenberg
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Alana Noehrenberg

Lauren Curnow Madigan sings a solo during her recital, accompanied by pianist Vincent Trovato.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, the Madigan Faculty Recital, "Nouveaux Amis" ("New Friends"), was held in the evening. Voice faculty member and mezzo-soprano Lauren Curnow Madigan, who teaches private voice lessons at Muhlenberg, was accompanied by fellow Music Department faculty member Vincent Trovato on the piano; Margaret Jackson '20 played the viola for two pieces. The recital featured the works of Rossini, Debussy, Brahms, Argento, Sondheim and Weill. Madigan earned her Masters in Opera Performance at The Curtis Institute of Music and her Masters in Music at Juilliard. Madigan is an alumna of Muhlenberg College, having earned her B.A. here in Theatre Arts and English.

Madigan's clear voice filled the entirety of the Recital Hall with ease.

Students, professors and community members attended the recital. Madigan instantly lit up the Recital Hall when she walked in wearing a long navy dress adorned with glitter that sparkled throughout her performance almost as much as she did. Madigan's clear voice filled the entirety of the Recital Hall with ease. The recital included pieces in Italian, French, German and English.

"The pieces were all things that I hadn't really done before, so I wanted to expand my repertoire and try things that I had always heard about, but had never attempted," said Madigan. "I have not done a lot of recital work, which is why I wanted to do what I did for this performance."

Utilizing her incredible vocal range and strong vibrato, Madigan began her performance with Gioachino Rossini's "La Regata Veneziana: Tre Canzoni in Dialetto Veneziano." The recital truly was an auditory and visual experience. Madigan's background as a thespian shone through during the entire recital; her body movements and facial expressions were highly expressive and fit perfectly with the music. At the end of each piece, Madigan would pause, gaze up and then break out into an elated smile. Madigan truly got into the music; following one of Claude Debussy's pieces, she sighed, clutching at her chest, before drawing her hands together in front of her face. In another, Madigan squinted her eyes and brought her fists up to the music.

Jackson joined Trovato and Madigan on stage for two of Johannes Brahms' works. The rich, full sound of the viola flowed into the lovely piano music and complemented Madigan's strong, beautiful vocals; all three blended together splendidly. The audience was attentive and engaged throughout the performance, either following along with the lyrics in the program booklet or hanging onto Madigan's vocals and theatrical performance.

After a brief intermission, Madigan and Trovato returned to the stage to perform the second half of the recital. Madigan began with Dominick Argento's "From the Diary of Virginia Woolf."

"The way the world is right now, we need to think of love, acceptance, vulnerability and being truthful most of all."

"One of the big pieces for me was the Argento cycle," said Madigan. "Virgina Woolf is interesting to begin with, and the diary entries are her words... it's just incredibly fascinating the way her mind works, and Argento's musical settings are also fascinating. I thought it was also a really good acting challenge psychologically and musically."

Other pieces, though, did not come quite so naturally to Madigan.

"I have not sung enough Rossini in my life," admitted Madigan. "I kind of shied away from it because I'm scared of it... there's a lot of fast notes you have to move your voice to, but now I'm not so afraid of Rossini and it was super fun to sing. The French repertoire — I've never sung Debussy; I just wanted to indulge in that music because it's so lush and beautiful. It's cathartic for the voice."

The last two songs in the program that Madigan performed were Stephen Sondheim's "No One is Alone" and Kurt Weill's "I'm a Stranger Here Myself." Madigan performed Sondheim's moving piece with great passion, and her execution of Weill's was quite amusing — not only was the song playful, but Madigan made it a true performance by exaggerating her facial expressions and stomping her feet at certain points for emphasis. The recital truly highlighted Madigan's range of musical styles as an artist.

Speaking to her time at Muhlenberg, Madigan said, "Muhlenberg was great; I can't say enough about my time here. Every class that I took stretched me as a person; it stretched my way of thinking; it opened so many doors to the way that I thought about things and the way that I perceived different ideas. I was really blown away by my education here, and it was a really nice place to be; it was full of really great and inspirational people. I did a lot of great shows and have a lot of wonderful memories. As a performer, I would say that it prepared me to take the next step, which is exactly what happened. I got a lot of really great performance experience here in the classroom and on stage. I had a wonderful voice teacher and acting teachers who helped me be vulnerable and step outside the box and learn about what I could do. They really set me up for the future."

At the conclusion of her performance, Madigan thanked her fellow performers and the audience. "I would like to end with one more piece if you would indulge me," continued Madigan. "The way the world is right now, we need to think of love, acceptance, vulnerability and being truthful most of all." Madigan then sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

"There are so many things right now that can really weigh you down and that have made people incredibly depressed and kind of withdrawn because it's getting so heavy every time you turn on the news," Madigan said. "It's like you're just waiting for the other shoe to drop all the time, and I think when you do things like this, it can take people out of that for just a short amount of time; hopefully it will give some people respite and a distraction, a chance to hear something that is hopeful. Hopefully, we as musicians are creating something beautiful."

Singing lullabies: An Afternoon of Vocal Music

By Kate Frischer
Contributing Writer
& Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

Karly McCloseky / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Ellen Zimmer Lewis, Rachelle Fleming, Adam Cantor '21 and Christopher Jackson sing "She Walks in Beauty" at An Afternoon of Vocal Music.

On Oct. 6, An Afternoon of Vocal Music took place in The Baker Theater Recital Hall. The show consisted of six performers including Muhlenberg Music Department faculty members and a student guest performer. Featured were music lecturer Ellen Zimmer Lewis, Rachelle Fleming, assistant music professor and choir director Chris Jackson and voice lecturer Brian Ming Chu, while guest performer and Music Theory lecturer Darin Lewis played the piano and Adam Cantor '21 served as a guest performer for the event.

Lewis started playing the piano when he was seven years old. He earned his Bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California and his Master's degree in Piano Performance at Yale University. Subsequently, he earned another Master's at City College of New York in composition.

The concert was a showcase of compositions by Lewis including "Five Folksongs" and "Five Lullabies," the latter of which were based on the classic lullabies from which they derive their names. He said that his inspiration to write the songs came from his personal experiences studying in England thanks to a Rotary Scholarship.

While the concert represented a single genre of his compositions, Lewis says that he "loves lots of types of music." The way Lewis played the piano was elegant, and the music he performed was graceful and peaceful.

The vocalists alternated performances throughout the concert, with each one singing a few selections before ceding the stage to their colleague.

Starting the concert off was Zimmer Lewis, a talented soprano who has sung all over the United States and Europe. She earned her Bachelor's in Music from SUNY Fredonia and her Artist Diploma in Opera at the University of Hartford, Hartt School, ultimately receiving her Master's in Music at Yale University. She opened with "Afternoon on a Hill" and "Set Me As A Seal." She returned to the stage at later points in the concert, performing another three solos and a duet with Fleming. Zimmer Lewis is a wonderful performer and has a beautiful voice.

The concert was a showcase of compositions by Lewis including "Five Folksongs" and "Five Lullabies," the later of which were based on the classic lullabies from which they derive their names.

The show's next performer was Jackson with the pieces "Honours, Riches, Marriage, Blessing" and "Moonlight." Jackson also returned twice more with the solos "Love's Old Sweet Song," giving a lively performance complete with a variety of facial expressions, and "To You All Flesh Shall Come" in his lovely bass voice.

Baritone Ming Chu graced the stage after Jackson with "The Morning Breaks," "Blanket Fair," "Rest, my child," "As down in the Meadow" and "Sweet Are the Charms." These make up Lewis's suite of "Five Folksongs" and were performed with skill and aplomb.

Fleming performed the concert's second five-song suite by Lewis, "Five Lullabies." The sweet and recognisable melodies were "All the Pretty Little Horses," "How They Sleep," "The White Seal's Lullaby," "Hey Diddle Diddle" and "Little Boy Blue." An outstanding performer who truly captivated the audience, Fleming also performed a duet with Zimmer Lewis; the enchanting "God Shall Wipe Away All Tears."

The concert closed with "She Walks in Beauty," a quartet by Zimmer Lewis, Fleming, Jackson and student Cantor. Cantor stepped in last-minute to perform and yet sounded as beautiful as if he had been rehearsing with the others for weeks.

Overall, the performance was a wonderful show full of soft, graceful and enjoyable music that was greatly appreciated by the audience.

Artist of the week:

Sarah Gordin turns GASP from an impossible idea into an impressive institution

By Danny Milkis
Contributing Writer

One of the staple qualities of Muhlenberg is its population of pioneering artists within an already thriving creative community on campus. In order to make a lasting impact within this sprawling community, students must set themselves apart from the rest of the massive arts-oriented crowd and be able to persevere through obstacles and a number of unfortunate rejections before receiving an ounce of uplifting news. However, once the ultimate goal is reached, there becomes no better taste than that of a hard-earned success. One such success story that resonates within the Muhlenberg performing arts community is theatre major Sarah Gordin '21, who started her own original music group, The Great American Songbook Project (GASP) in 2017. The group has since become one of Muhlenberg's most well-known and beloved ensembles.

"I thought of the idea on the car ride to Muhlenberg."

What is GASP exactly? It is a music group specializing in classic swing and jazz from the first half of the twentieth century that combines the appeal of a college a cappella group with a more traditional jazz music approach of having smaller group performances and piano accompaniment.

"I thought of the idea on the car ride to Muhlenberg," says Gordin. "The reason I started this group is because I wanted to create a niche group doing something completely different from the rest of the existing groups... there is no group that sings specifically music from the 1920s to the 1960s, which is the music I really love, and I know that other people really love it as well."

Gordin explained that her fascination with the music of this time period began when she was a child and became exposed to Judy Garland's music,

see **Artist** page 7

Photo Courtesy of Sarah Gordon

Sarah Gordin '21 shares what goes into the founding of a performance ensemble.

FROM **ARTIST** PAGE 6

which she began singing constantly, and this resonated with her throughout her childhood. Gordin explained that although originally GASP was rejected as a performance ensemble, she was inspired to pick herself back up and try her luck with yet another of Muhlenberg's endless pool of resources for the performing arts. Eventually, she struck gold when choir director Chris Jackson agreed to act as the faculty advisor for GASP so that the group could function as its own independent organization.

"Our first-ever concert was a cabaret," explains Gordin. "The following year, we decided we wanted a more organized approach, so we had a set group with a semester concert to showcase all of the things we had accomplished."

In addition, Gordin hopes to continue to use the group as a resource to promote the group's unique style and agenda within the community. Specifically, she notes the appeal that the music of this time period has with residents of local nursing homes, who grew up hearing this passionate flavor of music, and the songs' ability to bring about a strong sense of nostalgia. Gordin also notes how refreshing it is to have the two-way personal connection with residents of these nursing homes and how music ultimately acts as the catalyst that paves the way for genuine connection between generations of people.

In addition community outreach in Allentown, GASP focuses a lot of its attention on rehearsing for events on campus such as its semester concert.

Gordin describes that "the group rehearses for three hours a week and mainly works on group numbers from the time period such as female trios and barbershop quartet pieces, as well as solos and duets that fit within the theme [of the Great American Songbook Project]."

Music ultimately acts as the catalyst that paves the way for genuine connection between generations of people.

However, she explains that this semester's focus is going to be based on honing in on the group aspect of the performance set. She goes on to include how lucky the group is to have a talented and amazing pianist, Emma Roppo '23, joining them this semester. Gordin explains that it is increasingly important to include the piano in the group's repertoire for the upcoming concert in order to highlight just how beneficial Roppo's presence in the group has been.

She is also grateful for the group's hardworking musical director, Abigail Sherman '22, who teaches incredibly difficult music in large quantities within a very short period of time, and in discussion explained that "for me, GASP is just a great way to improve my musical abilities and try out new genres that I otherwise wouldn't be able to try."

"Without all of these people on board, the group wouldn't be nearly as vibrant and accomplished as it is today," remarks Gordin.

In the future, Gordin has a number of intriguing plans for the group and what direction they should likely be headed in. Specifically, she places an emphasis on learning more repertoire every semester with the ultimate goal in mind to learn as much as possible and hopefully expand to perform themed cabaret performances and nursing home concerts in the future. Gordin explains that she hopes to be able to go into more depth about composers from the era and hold cabarets based on the work of specific artists and groups to showcase their musical genius.

Alive with the sound of music:

Behind the scenes of a Muhlenberg recital

By Arielle Moss
Arts & Culture Editor

"I listen to music every day. It's a de-stressor and so good to just sit in a room and listen to some feel good music," said Elizabetta Malagon '22, a mezzo-soprano, who sang "Nowadays" from the musical *Chicago* at the First Student Recital.

On the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 2, students and faculty members gathered inside the Recital Hall of the Baker Center for the Arts to hear performances from Muhlenberg music students. Each semester, the Music Department typically holds four or five of these recitals. The performers of the recitals take voice or instrument lessons on campus with a faculty member.

The recitals give students the experience of performing what they have been working on during their lessons in front of an audience, and the audience is given the opportunity to listen to a variety of songs.

There were six performers at the First Student Recital. Five students sang and were accompanied by either Vincent Trovato or June Thomas, both Music Department faculty members. There was also a student piano performance.

To prepare for the recital, the students rehearsed many pieces with their instructors and decided which one would be best for the performance.

One of the performers was baritone Joseph Grisanzio '23 who sang "Ilona" from the musical *She Loves Me*.

"I had worked with my voice instructor on a variety of pieces, but this one stood out to me because it was a song [in which] I could really let my voice be both strong and free at the same time," said Grisanzio.

"Music transports, excites and motivates me."

Over the past few weeks, Grisanzio's voice instructor, Eduardo Azzati, worked with him on the song and trained his voice to better support breath, especially with longer and higher notes. Overall, Grisanzio felt his performance went well.

"The song fit my voice well, and I felt quite prepared. Of course, I do look at my performance from an objective standpoint as well to see where I succeeded and where I could improve," said Grisanzio.

Music is how Grisanzio expresses his life.

"A song can transport me from pain, or remind me of how good of a day I'm having. I find myself running to the nearest piano every time I need to vent my emotions or if a melody comes to mind that I just can't part with until I record it," said Grisanzio. "Music transports, excites and motivates me."

Samantha Horowitz '22 was the only jazz singer at the recital. She sang Lionel Hampton and Johnny Mercer's "Midnight Sun." To Horowitz, the song was about someone who lost the person they love and their journey towards realizing that life is still beautiful.

Arielle Moss / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Sarah Levine '22 sings "Right Hand Man" from the musical *Something Rotten*, accompanied by Vincent Trovato.

To prepare for the recital, Horowitz worked with Thomas, her vocal coach, and on her own.

"A song can transport me from pain, orremind me of how good of a day I'm having."

"Since it's a jazz piece, I needed to make sure that it had some heart to it, but also that it wasn't in the same style as Ella Fitzgerald," said Horowitz. "Jazz [is] all about making whatever song you sing your own."

Horowitz has been a musician for 15 years, as she first started to learn how to play the piano when she was around five years old. She then slowly moved towards the violin, viola, guitar and banjo, as well as the accordion. Eventually, as she became older, she started to focus more on her voice.

Another performer, Sam Wolf '20, is a tenor who performed "Heaven on Their Minds," from the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. For the recital, Wolf rehearsed once a week for 45 minutes in his voice lessons with Thomas. He is primarily a singer, but used to want to play the alto saxophone and is a self-taught pianist.

"I got interested in music when I first heard The Beatles as a young child," said Wolf. "My voice developed over time by mimicking what I heard in their songs."

The recital ended with Snow Du '22, who played the piano. She tries to practice the piano an hour a day, but sometimes only practices three or four times a week. At the recital, Du played Sonata in A Major, K. 429, which she learned during her lessons with her teacher, Trovato. She has been playing the piano since she was four years old.

"My parents wanted me to play piano as a hobby, so I listened to them, but now I realize music is... part of my life," said Du.

Many of the students plan to continue performing music after Muhlenberg.

"I hope to continue singing for people after I leave Muhlenberg, possibly joining a band," said Wolf. "I just need the band first."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

The Hong Kong protests, unmasked

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

An umbrella to protect yourself from water cannon blasts; a hard hat to protect yourself from rubber bullets; a pair of goggles to protect yourself from tear gas; and, arguably most importantly, a face mask to protect your identity from the police. This is the uniform of the average protester in Hong Kong.

Since early summer, millennial-aged workers and students as young as 10 years old have been taking to the streets of Hong Kong in demonstration against China's gradual encroachments upon their culture and freedoms. The crux of their demands — the permanent withdrawal of a proposed extradition bill that would allow arrested citizens to be susceptible to severe criminal punishments on the mainland — was officially ceded by Chief Executive Carrie Lam in September. However, as of this writing, their other requests (for Lam to step down, for the release of unjustly-arrested protesters, for the government to investigate and punish instances of police brutality and for greater democratic freedoms in general) have only been met by Lam with terse and inadequate offers of open discussion. Thus, the protests continue, and they're becoming more turbulent by the day.

This is not the first protest in Hong Kong to receive international attention. In fact, today's protests stem from the societal unrest and demonstrations following the handover of Hong Kong's sovereignty from Britain to China in 1997. Fears that mainland China would impose its political system as well as its national identity onto Hong Kong's unique system inspired vocal yet nonviolent demonstrations that year. These fears were partially assuaged by government promises not to interfere with Hong Kong's system for at least 50 years. Yet in 2014, proposed reforms to Hong Kong's electoral process that allowed China to pre-screen candidates for chief executive resulted in another highly-visible activist movement — the Umbrella Revolution.

These 2014 protests started as yet another series of nonviolent, sit-in street demonstrations against colonialism and imperialism; however, the pacifism of the movement was met with extreme police violence. Thus, protesters began wielding umbrellas to shield themselves from rubber bullets and tear gas canisters thrown at them by law enforcement while remaining nonviolent. When it rained, protesters even held out their umbrellas for law enforcement officials to stand under in order to demonstrate their peaceable intentions.

In spite of this non-threatening display, many protesters — some only students at the time — were arrested and have yet to be released from police custody. This is part of the reason why, in 2019, the extradition bill served as such a point of contention among protesters; had the bill gone through, it would have left those arrested for their activism to face much more severe consequences on the mainland than they would otherwise in Hong Kong. This possibility, combined with China's increased implementation of surveillance technologies in Hong Kong (such as CCTVs installed on lampposts, equipped with facial recognition software to apprehend suspected activists caught on tape), has changed the nature of the protests entirely.

The escalation of police violence and surveillance in Hong Kong is making it increasingly difficult for citizens to protest peacefully, and it will only continue until it becomes too difficult for them to protest at all.

Now, Hong Kong citizens' battle to protect their national identity from China has evolved into a battle to protect their individual identities from the police. It is becoming more and more difficult for protesters to act as a faceless group. This has prompted them to develop increasingly sophisticated organizational tactics: the use of apps such as Tinder and Pokémon Go to covertly distribute protest information, sign language to signal what safety equipment they'll need at the next location and clothing changes left in subway stations to help others quickly disguise themselves while running from police are just a few of those known. And umbrellas, once primarily used to deflect tear gas canisters and sprays from water cannons, are now also being used to shield protesters' faces from CCTV footage.

However, the increase in police surveillance has also led to an increase in anxiety and paranoia among protesters, which in turn has increased incidents of violence on their part. In one instance, a group of protesters attacked an elderly man taking photos nearby after falsely suspecting him to be a government spy. In another, protesters laid siege to a police station; these protesters were subsequently attacked with fireworks thrown out of an unmarked moving van. And a 13-year-old protester was recently arrested for being caught with petrol bombs on his person.

The scary fact is that Hong Kong police are using these individual cases as justification to escalate systemic violence against protesters to an exponential degree. On Tuesday, Oct. 1, an 18-year-old student protester was the first to be shot by police with a real bullet instead of a rubber one. There have been more cases of this happening since, and there will probably be even more by the time this editorial is published. And the Chinese government only enables the perpetration of this violence — since 2014, umbrellas in Hong Kong have been legally designated as weapons, and it is impossible for Hong Kong citizens to order one from Chinese retailers online. "I cannot [even] put it into my basket if the destination is Hong Kong," says 22-year-old activist Kelvin Yeung.

But that's not all. On Friday, Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced an emergency legislative measure to ban the use of face masks in public.

If protesters can be arrested whether or not they're wearing masks, what are they supposed to do? This act was designed to silence protesters into complicity, and to incarcerate those who refuse to comply. Not only is the legislation designed to scare protesters into inaction, it actively empowers officers to forcibly remove masks and use handheld facial recognition to quickly identify and arrest activists. Its cruelty cannot be understated, and its message cannot be ignored. In a battle that is being waged on the grounds of identity, it is exceptionally revealing that the "emergency" measure passed denies individuals the right to protect their own.

You may be wondering why we should care about these demonstrations happening across the ocean — especially ones that, in spite of the police brutality faced by protesters, have resulted in partial success. The extradition bill was, after all, officially withdrawn due to the work of activists; though this is only a fraction of the battle, it is a victory nonetheless.

However, it is important not to let our desensitization to police violence color our assessment of the situation. When a police officer in Hong Kong pulls a firearm on a nonviolent protester, it is a shock; when a police officer in the United States does the same, it is a Tuesday. The escalation of police violence and surveillance in Hong Kong is making it increasingly difficult for citizens to protest peacefully, and it will only continue until it becomes too difficult for them to protest at all. So while it may be tempting to covet protesters' progress, or to wonder what similar demonstrations in the United States could accomplish, these events should serve as reminders that police brutality is quite possibly the greatest threat we face to our ability to organize.

These first few weeks of October are shaping up to be rainy ones. As you and your fellow students open umbrellas to shield yourselves from the weather, we hope you'll spare a thought for the students halfway across the world wielding theirs against violence and injustice.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

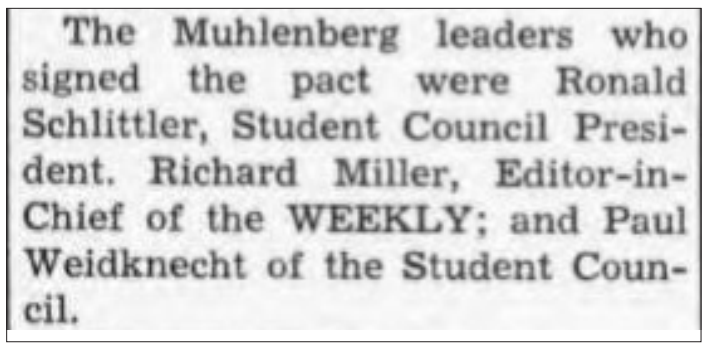
It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Letters to the editor

An historic meeting



The Muhlenberg leaders who signed the pact were Ronald Schlittler, Student Council President. Richard Miller, Editor-in-Chief of the WEEKLY; and Paul Weidknecht of the Student Council.

How deep and how broad are the links which tie together the alumni of Muhlenberg? Do graduates of years long gone still have anything in common with those on whose sheepskin the ink is hardly dry? The answers to these questions were vividly played out during this year's Homecoming weekend. They involved Richard Miller '56 and Greg Kantor '18. During their undergraduate years at the college, both men served as editor-in-chief of the MUHLENBERG WEEKLY for two consecutive years.

The contact between Kantor and Miller began in 2016 when the 1950's editor wrote to the undergraduate editor, expressing appreciation for the high quality of the current WEEKLY.

Occasional correspondence ended upon Kantor's graduation in 2018. A few days before this year's Homecoming, Kantor emailed the elder editor, indicating his plans to be on campus that weekend, and expressing the hope that they might meet up with one another.

The get-together took place on Saturday afternoon. Surrounded by an oblivious rush of alumni and undergrads, the two men sat together, separated by two generations but bound together by their journalistic experiences at Muhlenberg. In the course of their conversation, Miller shared with Kantor some particularly noteworthy artifacts of his day and before. Among them were the article he wrote when co-education was announced in 1953, an April Fool's issue of the mid-50's and an original copy of the WEEKLY from the mid-1930's when his own father was editor-in-chief of the college paper.

The elder alumnus expressed his opinion that the WEEKLY of today is a better publication than that over which he presided. It involves a far broader range of student opinion and covers both campus and other current issues in greater depth. So how broad and how deep are the links between the generations of men and women who have passed through the doors of Muhlenberg? Some would say, you cannot imagine.

Richard Miller '56

Dean Gulati responds to gender neutral bathroom opinion piece

Dear Em [Panetta '20] and all students, particularly those concerned with ensuring that we have gender inclusive practices in place on campus (and particularly bathrooms that meet the needs of students who do not identify on the gender binary),

First of all, to Em. I wanted to take a moment to thank you so much for your op-ed in The Weekly about the Gender Inclusive Restroom project. It was a very important piece and really helped us to identify a flaw in our work that needed to be addressed right away. Specifically, you noted, "I want to take a moment to discuss the 'full map of gender inclusive restrooms' mentioned in the letter. The attached link brings up 'Berg's online campus map, which lists all campus-owned buildings with at least one gender-neutral restroom. Yet here's the kicker: there is absolutely no information about where to actually find the restrooms once inside the doors. Considering the sizes of the buildings in question, the map is about as useful as a flashlight on the sun." This was about the most spot on quote I have seen in some time! My sincerest apologies and I really appreciate your candor in sharing this feedback.

Within a few hours of reading your article, our Communications department immediately began working with the proper staff to further update the map to include the information you noted was lacking. The existing map has now been updated with additional information, including more detailed descriptions of the location of the bathrooms.

Gender-Neutral Restrooms (**non-residence/public access**)**:**
Gabriel House/Wescoe School (first/main floor)
Global Education (all restrooms on first and second floor)
Hillel/Sociology (ground floor and first/main floor)
Hillside House (lower level)
Hoffman House (both first-floor restrooms)
Life Sports Center (first/main floor)
Moyer Hall (two restrooms on the lower level)
Multicultural Center (lower level)
New Science Building (two restrooms on the lower level)
Office of Communications (all restrooms)
Rehearsal House (all/four restrooms throughout building)
Seegers Union (first/main floor, in main lobby outside Wood Dining Commons)
Services Buildings (four restrooms in the plant operations, grounds/paint and print shop offices)
Trexler Library (main floor, past the Writing Center)
Walson Hall (lower level - exterior door facing grounds garage)

I also wanted to take this opportunity to provide a little bit more information about the Gender Inclusive Working group to the broader community. This committee is made up of faculty, staff and four students. Last year, the committee worked on an inventory of all bathrooms on campus, reviewed Allentown building code, met with architects, identified immediate projects and future locations for restrooms to be constructed and got to weigh in on the design of both the Walz and Moyer bathrooms. This committee will be reconvening a few times over the course of this year as there is still much more work to do. If any student or faculty/staff member has additional input that they would like to provide to this committee, I would welcome it! Please don't hesitate to reach out and we will make sure your ideas are shared with the committee. You can also reach out to any of the LGBT affinity groups on campus as their presidents have all been invited to participate on this committee as well.

Em, thank you again for pointing out your concerns. We definitely want to get it right and student feedback is really important to that!

Dean Gulati

Correction:

In the last issue, we mistakenly attributed the article "The problems with 'Berg" to our op/ed editor, Will Wamser. This piece was written by contributing writer Juli Mindlin. We apologize for this error.

לא כל החגים שווים

By Max Kasler
Contributing Writer

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

הרבה אנשים יודעים שכל היהודים חוגגים את הימים הנוראים עכשיו. בשבוע שעבר היה לנו ראש השנה, ההתחלה של השנה. ובשבוע הזה יש לנו את יום כיפור, היום בו אנו מכפרים על חטאינו וצמים כל היום. אלה שני החגים הקדושים ביותר בלוח השנה העברי. אז יש לי שאלה. למה יש לנו שיעורים בראש השנה וגם בחלק מיום כיפור? לא היה לנו חופש לחגוג את ראש השנה, ויש לנו שיעורי לילה ביום כיפור. אני חושב שזה לא הוגן לתלמידים יהודים שיש שיעורים בימים האלה.

כן, יש לנו חופש ביום רביעי הזה בשביל יום כיפור, אבל עדיין יש שיעורים בלילה. לתלמידים שחוזרים הביתה לחג לא יהיה מספיק זמן לחזור לקמפוס לשיעורי לילה. זה קצת בעייתי אם קרוב לשליש מהתלמידים יהודים, ואין להם חופש לחגים כאלה. אף אחד לא מצפה מאנשים להיות בשום מקום ב-25 בדצמבר; אבל, כי רוב האנשים בארה"ב לא יהודים, זה בסדר? זה ממש מתסכל אותי.

הייתי בכיתה בשבוע שעבר, וידידה שלי אמרה שיש לה מורה שרוצה שתלמידים יגישו משהו ביום כיפור. זה לא מקובל! ראשית, אני חושב שאסור לנו לקיים שיעורים לכל אורך שני החגים. נקודה. שנית, הפרופסורים צריכים להיות יותר מבינים עם התלמידים היהודים שלהם.

מניסיוני, פרופסורים הבינו. למרות זאת, אני חושב שהמדיניות שיש למכללה שלנו היא בעייתית. התלמידים צריכים זמן לנסוע ולהתכונן לחגים. חשוב לנו שיהיה לנו זמן לחגוג את החגים בדיוק כמו שהנוצרים צריכים זמן לחגוג את חג המולד ואת חג הפסחא עם משפחותיהם.

אני מבין שהעם היהודי אינו מיעוט בקמפוס הזה, אבל בפעמים כאלה אני ממש מודע לכך שרוב העולם אינו מבין את החגים, המסורות והמנהגים שלנו. שנה טובה ומתוקה לכולם.

Men's soccer falls ahead of critical run as season winds down

After a crushing 1-0 loss to Johns Hopkins, the Mules are ready for the challenge ahead

By Jordan Fisch
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

The Mules suffered a heartbreaking loss against conference foe Johns Hopkins on Oct. 5.

On Oct. 2, the Men's soccer team fell to defending Centennial Conference (C.C.) Champions Haverford with a final score of 3-2. After going up 2-0 with a late first-half goal from Victor Jacobs '21 and an early second-half goal from Stephen Carton '22, Haverford stormed back with three goals to secure a comeback victory over the Mules. It was a tough loss for a team that has been playing well in all of their games, even in losses.

This Saturday, the team took on Johns Hopkins, where they were unlucky and ultimately lost by a score of 1-0. The Mules performed well on both attack and defense, outshooting the Jays 20-6. However, Hopkins was able to take advantage of a late play with 20 minutes left on the clock that would end up being the only goal of the game.

Goalkeeper Raymond Leto '20 points to this ending and the team's lack of shots on goal as big reasons for the upsetting defeat. "We played a good game against Hopkins, but the biggest factor that contributed to our loss was obviously not being able to put a ball in the back of the net," said Leto.

"We ended the game with more shots, but Hopkins was able to score with the little opportunity they had all game, which ultimately lost us the game," Leto added.

"It will be a tough couple games and a battle until the end, but we are fully aware of where we want to be."

His teammate, defender Jordan Cimring '20, shares a similar opinion. "To outshoot a team 20-6 and not find a goal is very disheartening," said Cimring. "There weren't any factors that contributed to the loss other than [the fact that] luck was not on our side."

"Sometimes you get chances during a game that fall your away, and sometimes you don't. Hopkins had one lucky break and took the chance," Cimring followed up.

The Mules outplayed the Jays for much of the game but just could not find a way to score, having some tough breaks along the way.

"We had some great chances, including one that hit the crossbar," Cimring said.

"Other than a fluke goal, there wasn't really much that went wrong in the second half. We have to find ways to put the ball in the net, but I think it was a great second-half performance," he added.

Although the team is 0-3-1 in C.C. play, this was the only shutout they suffered this season; they have outshot their first four league opponents 67-47. The Mules are coming up to an important stretch in their season, with five Centennial Conference games in a row to conclude it. If they continue to play the way they have been all season, the team has the potential to string together some crucial wins.

"We have the potential to win the next five games," said Cimring. "The guys know what the task is, and we are motivated to do our jobs. It will be a tough couple games and a battle until the end, but we are fully aware of where we want to be and know that we must get it done on Saturday against Gettysburg."

Even with the loss to Johns Hopkins, this team has a lot to be proud of and is still in high spirits following the loss. "We have five C.C. opponents to play, and the team understands that we need to win out to move forward in the conference," said Leto. "We are going into the next five games with our heads held high and positive energy on our shoulders; without that mindset, it is hard to compete in this league," he made clear.

The team is not fixating on the loss, but is instead focusing on the positives from the game. "I think it was one of our most complete performances. We defended as one unit and worked for each other. An away game at Hopkins is one of the toughest places to play in Division 3 soccer, so to drive three hours and outshoot, even outplay, one of the most dominant teams in the division is no easy task. We know how disappointing it was to not get a result, but we are ready to take the way we played into the next game," Cimring stated.

Once again, the two men are on the same page, as Leto is in complete agreement with his fellow teammate. "We can look at this game as a lesson," Leto said. "It goes to show we can compete at the highest level, and we can use that motivation to go forward."

from **Basketball** page 12

day, we just have to be focused throughout the entirety of the season and never underestimate any of our opponents," said Hoffman.

For Mike Morreale '21, the same goal is in mind: pushing the team forward and working hard to make the playoffs.

"After not making the playoffs last year, the team needs to have the mentality that we know we have the talent and the capability of advancing through the playoffs. We have been working hard in the offseason, not forgetting how close we came up to being a playoff team," said Morreale.

"We've been working out for a consistent five to six weeks to ensure that we are ready for what is to come."

Morreale aims to work together with his team to strive to be the playoff contenders he knows they can be. He has been hitting the gym and working hard during preseason. "With practice coming soon, we are staying on a consistent workout schedule in the offseason to get us ready for the season's upcoming battles," Morreale said. "We've been working out for a consistent five to six weeks to ensure that we are ready for what is to come."

Working with the team, Morreale has been practicing prior to formal practices, wanting to make sure that he is physically ready when the team comes back together in mid-October.

Agreeing with Hoffman, Morreale understands that the lost seniors will be missed, but is confident that the team will be able to move forward.

"While we lost our seniors and appreciate what was done for us, it is important that we keep a legacy for them," said Morreale. "Last year, we had a lot of freshmen playing what seemed to be an upperclassman role. With a year of maturing, they are more than capable of helping us lead the 10 new freshmen to the playoffs this season."

The Mules play their first home game on Nov. 15, with the first two games of the season being on the road against Delaware Valley and King's College.

Field Hockey loses to ranked MSU on penalties

The Lady Mules nearly held out against Montclair State, but fell just short, losing 4-3 on penalties

By Jason Grant
Assistant Sports Editor

This past Friday, the Lady Mules traveled to Montclair, New Jersey, to face the 16th ranked Montclair State University. Having a had stellar season so far and equipped with one of the best defenses in all of Division III, Muhlenberg traveled to New Jersey full of confidence. Posting a 7-2 record prior to the game, Muhlenberg led all Division III teams in shutouts throughout the year. In fact, amazingly, all nine of their games resulted in either the Lady Mules producing a shutout or getting shutout by their opponents. That statistic finally changed on Friday, as Muhlenberg lost with a heartbreaking 4-3 on penalties.

Muhlenberg opened up the scoring in the second quarter, when Rachel Richards '21 scored off a penalty corner assisted from Morgan Tietz '21, who also assisted the second goal from a penalty corner. That goal was scored by Sarah Raab '22, who remained positive after the close defeat.

"They were a top 20 team in the nation, and for us to win we had to play our best for all four quarters," said Raab. "We came out with a bang but throughout the game gave up too many defensive corners, and that's what led to our loss."

Other than the defensive corners Raab mentioned, which Montclair State had a whopping 14-5 advantage in, the stats for the two squads were eerily similar. Each team put up seven shots on goal, with each goalie saving four. Muhlenberg led 3-1 late in the third period, but a goal at the end of third and start of the fourth for Montclair squared things up.

Two overtime periods could not separate them either, so the opponents went to a penalty shootout. Goalie Jordan Segrave '20 did a fantastic job of giving her team a chance, saving 3 of 4 in the shootout. However, the Lady Mules failed to convert any of their penalty shots to goals.

Despite this gut-wrenching loss, Raab is not concerned about her team's outlook on their remaining schedule. "We are on a winning streak in the conference, and as we play two conference teams this week, we are confident that we can keep that streak going," Raab explained. "We played a hard-fought game throughout the whole four quarters and the two overtime periods, so the fact that we lost in shootouts isn't very frustrating, since we knew that we gave it our all."

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Sarah Raab '22 scores in the second quarter in Friday's game against Montclair State.

The Lady Mules (7-3, 2-2) are still in good shape with a great chance to make the Centennial Conference playoffs. Over the next three weeks, they face four conference opponents, and the confidence they have built from playing a ranked opponent so close should help them succeed. While Mules' confidence is rising, their mindset has not changed, as Raab attests that the team is just focused on a good week of practice. "In practice this week," Raab said, "we are focusing on communicating more as well as our small pass game to prepare for Bryn Mawr and Johns Hopkins."

Golf team follows through with a successful fall season

As the season comes to a close, the Mules celebrate improved performances on the green

By Noah Brill
Staff Writer

Just as the fall portion of the Muhlenberg golf team's season seemed to be in full swing, it has come to an end. After a shaky start to the season, the group played their way to a third place finish in the John Makuvek Cup on Oct. 1. Despite a relatively disappointing 12th place finish in last week's Montgomery Cup, the Mules showed much improvement between days of the tournament, most notably finishing Sunday's round with 20 fewer strokes than they did the day prior.

"We have continued to improve throughout the fall, mainly because of the amount of time we practice week in and week out," said Joel Hark '22.

Hark has definitely taken advantage of the practices and has established himself as one of the feel-good stories of the golf team this year, opening his season by shooting an impressive 71 at the Frederick W. Anton III Memorial Invitational. Since then, he has consistently been at or near the top of the leaderboards for the Mules.

Even after tournaments where the group does not place as well as they had hoped, they make an active effort not to let it affect the group's morale. "For the past couple of weeks, my coaches and teammates have been telling me to keep my head down and to continue to work hard," Hark added.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Joel Hark '22 locks and loads at the Moravian Weyhill Classic on Sept. 16.

As the fall season comes to a close, the team seems to be shifting their attention toward the spring season and beyond. "At the moment, we are a small and young team with goals to be at the top of the conference in the spring and, [we] hope, bring in more recruits next year to better our chances of being the best team in the Centennial," Hark continued.

Despite his relative youth, Hark has taken on a leadership role in the golf team. After the departure of many key contributors from last season, like Ben Lieberman '19 and Ellis Focht '19, the team has seen a lot of turnover in the last few months. Even with two big players on the move due to graduation, the team has still seen a few additions to the roster. These new faces include Austin Lancsak '20, who joined the team for the final three tournaments of 2018-19 after transferring from nearby Lehigh Carbon Community College, Max Shapiro '20 and Jake Ghamar '23.

Additionally, the group has an invaluable asset in Adam Marcus '22, who has consistently been shooting between the mid-70s and low 80s. Even though he did not play in the Montgomery Cup, the sophomore has dazzled fans this season. In addition to his consistent strong play, not unlike Hark's, Marcus most notably finished tied for a whopping tenth of 96 golfers at last weekend's Mason-Dixon Classic.

"I came into the season with a different mindset," Marcus said to sum up his personal improvement this fall. "I've been putting a strong emphasis on improving my short game, specifically my putting, which has given me more confidence during tournaments," he added.

In spite of the fact that golf is considered by many to be an individual sport, this team seems to be challenging that notion. The group makes a conscious effort to ensure that they are putting forth their collective best at every tournament they take part in, whether that is by giving one another pointers, practicing their swings together in their downtime or even something as simple as the upperclassmen giving the freshmen rides to the course.

The golfers concluded the first part of their season on Monday, Oct. 7, when they tied off the Muhlenberg Invitational at the nearby Lehigh Country Club.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules Get Ready to Roll

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Dallas Hoffman '22 lifts off for a layup finish in a 2018 game against DeSales.

Heading into practices on Oct. 15, the men of 'Berg basketball are fired up to begin the push to the playoff

By Samantha Brenner
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Men's basketball team tips off the 2019-2020 season on Friday, Nov. 8 against Moravian. Having gone 12-13 in the 2018-2019 season and ending on a three-game losing streak, the Mules are looking to improve their performance this year.

As they prepare for the upcoming season, the team has been working hard to get back into shape, as they are set to begin practices on Oct. 15. Dallas Hoffman '22 is ready to get back in the game. "Pretty much from the first week back on campus, we have had lifts. We have conditioning on top of playing pick up at least three or four times a week," Hoffman said. "This year, we have all been working harder than ever in our preseason, and we all cannot wait for Oct. 15 to come around."

"Every single person on our team has enough skill to contribute and if we just focus on playing for each other, I have no doubt it will be a successful season."

For Hoffman, preseason has been a team effort, with all members working together in order to change the outcome of the previous season.

"This year is going to be completely different," said Hoffman. "Now that most guys in my class have had the chance to contribute last year and have seen what it is like to play college basketball, everyone has definitely improved on their game. The mindset this year is to play as a team. Every single person on our team has enough skill to contribute and if we just focus on playing for each other, I have no doubt it will be a successful season," he continued.

Though the team has lost two big contributors, Brendan Hughes '19 and Erik Werheim '19, Hoffman is confident that the team will be able to fill the gaps left open by Hughes and Werheim's graduation. "Granted, we lost our biggest leaders," Hoffman said. "However, we currently have plenty of guys willing to stand up and ultimately push each other to be successful on the court."

Last year, the Mules fell short of a Centennial Conference tournament berth, and Hoffman is determined to write the story differently this time around.

"This year, if we plan to be a playoff team, we need to take every single team seriously in our conference. Last year we lost to the last team in our conference, Gettysburg, two separate times, and games like those are the ones that we must win to be a playoff team. At the end of the

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Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Oct. 10-12

Volleyball
Muhlenberg vs Bryn Mawr
Thursday, Oct. 10 @ 7:00 pm
Memorial Hall

Men's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg
Saturday, Oct. 12 @ 1:00 pm
Varsity Field

Volleyball
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Oct. 12 @ 12:00 pm
Baltimore, MD

Field Hockey
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Oct. 12 @ 12:30 pm
Baltimore, MD

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Read inside:

Try these fun fall activities!

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NEWS
Members of the administration weigh in on the declining enrollment of first-year students and how the College is working towards recruiting and retaining students each year.
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ARTS & CULTURE
Comunidad Latinx hosted Baila Con Nosotros on Oct. 19 to celebrate the culmination of Hispanic Heritage Month.
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OP/ED
In the latest installment of Speaking Your Language, Val Weisler '20 addresses collegiate inequality in Spanish.
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SPORTS
Men's and women's tennis coach Jason Toedter and men's basketball coach Kevin Hopkins were inducted into their alma mater's hall of fame last week.
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Muhlenberg ventures *Into the Woods*

read more on page 5

Photo Courtesy of Madison Whiting

Marin Diddams '21 as Cinderella and Tommy Gedrich '21 as Cinderella's Prince enchant each other in *Into the Woods*.

Hate group targets Chew Street

Stickers promoting white nationalist group found around campus

By Laura Schwarz
News Editor

Last week, stickers promoting a white nationalist hate group called the Patriot Front were found on lamp posts and street signs on Chew Street and Albright Street near Trexler Library. This incident is part of a growing trend of hate group material being distributed at other college campuses in the United States. In the past two months, similar stickers from the same hate group were found on colleges in South Carolina, Ohio and California.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center's website, "Patriot Front is a white nationalist hate group that broke off from Vanguard America [another white nationalist group] in the aftermath of the deadly 'Unite the Right' rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Aug. 12, 2017."

The Anti-Defamation League also describes the group's actions on their website saying, "Patriot Front's most frequent form of activism has been the distribution of racist and anti-Semitic propaganda on college campuses and in various communities in at least 12 different states. As of Dec. 13, 2017, the Anti-Defamation League has counted 37 incidents in which Patriot Front flyers, banners or stickers were posted on campuses. Most of the incidents occurred in Texas, where the bulk of the group's membership resides, but Patriot Front propaganda has also been distributed in states as far-flung as California, Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Utah and Washington."

Muhlenberg has experienced similar incidents in 2017, when hateful flyers were found on campus after Black Lives Matter co-founder Tanya Khan spoke at a Center for Ethics Talk and in 2018 when anti-choice protestors distributed flyers around campus personally targeting a pro-choice professor.

Last Thursday, Dean of Students Allison Gulati sent out an incident report describing where and when the stickers were found and reported.

"We are actively investigating in an effort to determine those responsible and whether a particular area of campus was being targeted," said Gulati. "The Allentown Police Department has been notified and Campus Safety has worked with Plant [Operations] to quickly identify and remove these stickers."

Brenda Lakis, Associate Director of Campus Safety, explained how Campus Safety is investigating the incident moving forward.

"First and foremost, we take this type of behavior very seriously," said Lakis. "Muhlenberg has zero tolerance with this type of propaganda. This is an ongoing investigation and we are working closely with Allentown Police due to [the fact that] all of the stickers were found on city streets. Some of the steps we have taken are checking campus cameras in the area and the city cameras. So far none of the stickers have been found on campus property."

On Oct. 14 at 12:52 a.m., when many students were home for Fall Break, a Report of a Suspicious Person was sent out from the Office of Communications. The report described a masked man on a bicycle wearing "a dark beanie/skullcap and hooded sweatshirt" chasing after students.

The report explained that in the two reported incidents, "students ran, unharmed, without making contact [with the suspect]."

While some students and professors have noted spotting the stickers soon after this incident occurred, Gulati and Lakis both insist that they do not believe there is any connection between the two incidents.

"We do not think the incident with the male chasing after a student on a bike is related in any manner," said Lakis.

Gulati concurred, saying, "There is no information that tells us those things are connected."

Students expressed both surprise that the stickers appeared here at 'Berg and acknowledged the college's handling of the situation.

"I didn't even have a clue that [the hate group was] active around here," said Celeste Samson '22. "I mean, this campus has a problem with racism, but blatant white nationalism is new."

"Obviously, we hear about white nationalism in the news and it can be really easy for us who live in this fairly liberal area among people our age, many of whom are liberal and at least open-minded, to push that issue away and say that 'that's happening away,' 'that's way in the distance,'" said Alexander Mast '21. "But no, it can happen right here. It can happen at your home and it's all around us in America. So it's good to confront that, and I'm glad that the college told everyone and sent that out in an email...and [is] not trying to hide it, because we need to realize that it can happen at home."

Gulati also urges anyone that sees any more of the stickers to report them to Campus Safety to be removed and reiterates the college's position on this type of hateful material.

"The College does not tolerate any form of expression or speech intended to cause hate and division," said Gulati. "Our institution is made better by our diversity, and we will continue to uphold and support our vibrant community made up of people of all identities and backgrounds."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CORRECTION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Sunday, October 13
Odor Investigation - 4:59 p.m.
Report of marijuana smell in Prosser Hall. Area was checked with nothing found.

Suspicious Person - 11:33 p.m.
Report of suspicious person at 26th and Chew Street. Area checked, investigation to continue.

Tuesday, October 15
Traffic Accident - 1:04 p.m.
Report of minor vehicle accident in Martin Luther parking lot. Insurance information exchanged, no further incident.

Vehicle Lock Out - 6:16 p.m.
Report of keys locked in vehicle at 2241 Liberty Street. Campus Safety was unable to retrieve keys.

Wednesday, October 16
Fire - 12:15 p.m.
Report of small fire from heater in Benfer Hall. Plant Operations extinguished fire.

Thursday, October 17
Suspicious Person - 3:20 p.m.
Report of suspicious person at Trexler Pavilion. Area checked, individual could not be located, and investigation to continue.

Point of Information - 4:00 p.m.
Stickers promoting a white nationalist hate group were discovered on lamp posts and street signs along Chew Street. Campus Safety and Allentown PD are actively investigation, and the stickers are being removed by Campus Safety and Plant Ops.

Drug Paraphernalia - 11:57 p.m.
Report of covered smoke detector and possession of marijuana and paraphernalia in Prosser Hall. Items brought to Campus Safety evidence locker by individuals.

Friday, October 18
Point of Information - 8:00 p.m.
Report of individuals seen breaking vehicle window at 2245 Liberty Street. Individuals identitifed and spoken to.

Saturday, October 19
Traffic Hit & Run - 10:00 a.m.
Report of hit and run causing minor damage in 26th and Chew Street parking lot. No suspects at this time.

Sunday, October 20
Alcohol Violation - 1:18 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Prosser Annex. Alcohol disposed of by Campus Safety.

Alcohol Violation - 1:40 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Benfer Hall. Alcohol disposed of by Campus Safety.

Welfare Check - 7:47 p.m.
Report to locate student in South Hall. Contact was made with no further incident.

Admitting to the decline

The College aims to gain and retain students as enrollment drops

KARLY MCCLOSKEY / THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Latin inscription on ceiling of Haas: "Cross, Country, and Pen."

BY SYDNEY COPLIN
MANAGING EDITOR

There is an emerging national trend of fewer students graduating high school, and as a result, fewer students are enrolling in college. In a recent article from The Morning Call published on Oct. 1, it was noted that "by 2026, the country is likely to begin to see a bigger dip [in high school graduates] as a result of lower birth rates since the 2008 financial crisis."

This drop in college enrollment hits close to home for 'Berg, as the College experienced a significant decline in enrollment with the most recent class of first-year students. Melissa Falk, Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid, Robert Springall, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Greg Mitton, Director of Financial Aid and Associate Dean of Admissions collectively described the enrollment dilemma.

"Early this summer, the Class of 2023 was on pace to have 570 or more students. What was surprising this year was the number of students, 69, who committed to Muhlenberg but who are not enrolled," noted Falk, Springall and Mitton in a statement. "In a more typical year, that number would be around 35. In talking to counterparts at Muhlenberg's peer institutions, our higher rate of decommits was a phenomenon experienced at many colleges like us too."

While the College did witness a steep drop in enrollment with the Class of 2023, statistics from the past few years demonstrate that this decline has been developing for a while.

The decreasing amount of first-year students is evident within the Muhlenberg College Source Book for 2018-2019: 593 first-year students entered in Fall 2016, 564 first-year students entered in Fall 2017 and 548 first-year students entered last year, in Fall 2018. Each year, the initial class of first-year students got smaller in size.

"Muhlenberg suspects it lost students to competitors who were more assertive with merit scholarships and financial awards," said Springall in The Morning Call article.

The total comprehensive fees for the Class of 2023 was $66,635. This increased from the Class of 2022 having total comprehensive fees of $64,235.

One student, who requested to remain anonymous, discussed their own reasons for transferring out of Muhlenberg at the end of their freshman year in Spring 2018. For them, they did not necessarily want to be closer to home, but rather wanted to go farther away.

"I originally chose Muhlenberg because my father pushed the school on to me as well as it being conveniently close to home," the student revealed. "I applied to 17 schools and I would say it was near the bottom of that list. I preferred schools further away in cities where it was warm, mostly Los Angeles and a couple cities in Florida as well."

The student also cited living in Prosser as giving them a poor first impression once they arrived to campus. As they continued into their first semester, other circumstances began contributing to their desire to transfer.

"I considered transferring even before I began freshman year," the student explained. "I had joined clubs and activities to try to like the school and just couldn't. Come mid-October is when I decided I needed a change for sure and began the applications process. I wanted to transfer because I was so close to home, it was cold and I wanted to be in a city. Also, Muhlenberg is not an AACSB accredited business school, so it did not make much sense for me to stay as an accounting major."

The student noted that their financial aid package at their current school was similar to what was offered to them at 'Berg.

"The biggest factor was location," they added. "I only applied to schools in California and Florida, particularly those only in cities. My current school offers an accredited business program as well as the opportunity to intern in the city. I also get to plan formal events at high-end venues as social chair of my organization and enjoy the occasional beach day when I am not slammed with work. The most important distinction to make is that I did not choose a school that would be fun 100 percent of the time, but one that I could enjoy myself at as well as set myself up professionally to be a successful job candidate post-graduation."

As the student reflects on their transfer experience, the College has also been reflecting on ways that they can recruit students who may not know about Muhlenberg and what it can offer for them.

"In an effort to expand our recruiting footprint, we have made investments in staff members that are based in geographic areas (West and Southeast) in which the 18-year-old population is growing," said Falk, Springall and Mitton. "These investments have allowed us to recruit both first-year and transfer students in outreach areas, while still recruiting heavily in our primary geographic markets."

The College was recently featured in an article in The New York Times on Oct. 10 for their commitment to recruiting transfer students from community colleges, as they now offer a $15,000 annual scholarship from Phi Theta Kappa, the national two-year college honors society. 'Berg also begins admitting transfer students on March 1 rather than after the May 1 first-year commitment date, according to the article.

Transfer students also have an equal opportunity to receive financial aid.

"First-year students and transfer students, upon admission, have equal access to need-based financial aid. The Office of Financial Aid uses the same review process for both groups," indicated Falk, Springall and Mitton. "Most merit-based options, such as the College's honors programs, are available only to incoming first-year students at this point. Early in 2019, the College instituted a merit scholarship exclusively for community college students in the national two-year college honors society, Phi Theta Kappa."

The average financial aid package for transfer students in Fall 2019 was $33,567.

While the College has been focused on increasing enrollment for first-year and transfer students, they have also been navigating how to retain students each year.

Last Fall, the Class of 2022 saw a slight drop in retention: 87.9 percent of students returned to campus, compared to 90.9 percent retention from the previous year. This year, however, the retention rate increased to 89.8 percent.

"To promote student success and retention, the College has undertaken several initiatives to support students," explained Falk, Springall and Mitton. "Long-standing offices and services, such as the Academic Resource Center, the Emerging Leaders Program and the offices of Multicultural Life and International Student Support, have been supplemented by the CARE Team, the First-Year Experience Group and the M.U.L.E Community Cabinet to address emerging needs of students."

The College also notes that despite these fluctuations in retention rates, they are still ultimately above average nationally. According to the U.S. Government's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data Service, 78 percent retention is the average for private, four-year colleges.

Campus leaders such as Allison Gulati, Dean of Students, have been working to maintain a steady retention rate.

"My job is to work with the team in Student Affairs to continue to look for ways that we increase sense of belonging and self-efficacy. That includes things like enhancing the orientation program, making sure RAs are really trained to support students...and build community," explained Gulati. "And then lastly, making sure that our support services continue to help meet students' health and well-being needs while they're here."

Gulati also points to Michele Paules, Student Support Services Coordinator, as having a pivotal role in assisting students.

"Her job is to work with students to connect them to support resources related to health, mental health, financial insecurity, feelings of loneliness, homesickness, dealing with family crises and things like that," said Gulati, describing Paules' influence. "Her job is to just help connect them to the resources and make sure that they've got support."

The College held a Fall Open House last Saturday, Oct. 19, with 269 students and their families in attendance.

Out of those students, there were 188 high school seniors, 73 high school juniors, seven other high school students and one prospective transfer student, according to Falk, Springall and Mitton.

This year's Open House experienced a 20 percent increase in attendance from last year, according to the College.

"The feedback was overwhelmingly positive about the organization and content of the program as well as the wonderful interactions with our faculty, students and staff," they added. "We heard from many seniors that their applications to Muhlenberg will be submitted soon and that they are planning to return to campus shortly for their admissions interviews."

Leading the way

Student leaders showcased in inaugural fair

By Cydney Wilson
Staff Writer

On Friday, Oct. 18, Muhlenberg had its first "Fall Foundations Leadership Fair," where different student groups gathered to discuss potential leadership positions on campus. Some of these groups included Orientation Leaders, Tour Guides and members of student government.

"In my time here at Muhlenberg, there [have] been questions from students who say they've missed opportunities because they didn't see flyers or they didn't see emails," explained Jan Schumacher, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Director of Student Engagement and one of the organizers of the event. "So this is supposed to be a nice way to showcase opportunities that students can take advantage of on campus during their time here."

"The focus on this is trying to really look at the leadership-specific pieces, positions that really require that leadership experience," said Shumacher, describing how the Leadership Fair differed from the Student Involvement Fair held in August.

Many students who were representing different groups on campus spoke of the impact that being a leader on campus had on them.

"Part of the Presidential Assistant (PA) position is that you are a part-time student part-time employee of the College," explained Gabrielle Baum '20, a PA for Housing and Residence Life. "So what that means is you work 20 hours a week. Through this opportunity it's really nice to be able to have that work experience as well as to also be a student and still enjoy both sides of the equation. It's really allowed me to learn a lot of new skill sets, be a leader in the office with the employees that I work with [and] get ready for what may come after for next year."

"I feel like I reached a point in my time as a student where I wanted a greater purpose here, and I found that doubling up with working for the school, applying what it had given me and, in a way, giving it back," said Laura Diorio '20 who is also a PA and works in the Office of Communications. "I feel as if I act as a bridge for students and this office specifically...It definitely prepares me best for the kind of work that I do want to do post-grad and what I don't want to do."

"I am working right now as the Presidential Assistant for religious life mostly based in Hillel and Jewish life on campus. It's really fun for me to get to see students engaging with a part of their community and get excited about it," said Zoe Spiegel '20. "We have a lot of new freshmen coming in who are in a new place, trying to find their friends, their interests and everything, and to get to offer something familiar for them but still new and something that [they] can be interested in and be a part of, it's cool to be a part of that."

Involvement with religious life is another way students can find leadership opportunities on campus.

"I've been a part of the interfaith group since I was a freshman here on campus, and it's blossomed into sort of a leadership role just by the nature of my interest in it," said Marta Rardin '20.

Rardin also explained some of the other benefits of being a leader, saying, "For me the greatest part about being a leader is seeing different people come together and enjoy each other's company...really learn from each other and us all to increase our knowledge."

Other students also explained the impact being a leader has had on them.

Michael Bonaddio '20 explained how his involvement in the Cardinal Key Society, which consists of student-alumni ambassadors who help plan campus events, has impacted his time at the College.

Bonaddio '20 said, "I got involved in the Cardinal Key just because I really want to help out the campus. I want to give back to the students by helping out when they're here as well as when they graduate because we're direct liaisons between the current student body and the alumni. I've gotten a lot out of it. I've learned a lot of different skills in myself. I've learned that I am able to delegate to others."

Emily Kapelsohn '20 is currently the Tour Guide Coordinator and the president of her sorority, Phi Mu. She talked about her leadership in these programs, sharing that "in the tour guide program I manage about 90 people and in Phi Mu about 70, and being able to just work with that many people and manage them and take care of all the different things... the communication skills and the other things that I've learned have been really incredible, and [they've] been definitely the most fun things that I've been a part of."

Lauren Padko '20 talked about the importance of some campus groups such as Voices of Strength, which focuses on domestic and gender-based violence, and Peer Health Advocates at Muhlenberg (PHAM), in which members act as peer educators on campus.

"Being a leader on campus is just all about getting the community together and having all the students get their resources from credible sources from...students who have been trained in specific areas," added Padko.

First-year students who attended the fair were able to learn about opportunities on campus that they may not have been aware of, and many plan to apply for different positions as a result of attending the fair.

"I looked a lot into the tour guide and RA programs, and I learned about what the expectations are," said Abigail Lofton '23. "I plan on applying to be a tour guide, and I'm considering being an RA."

Elle Holzhauer '23 was also interested in being an RA, among other positions.

"I would also like to be a part of the Alliance for Justice Active Leadership winter break experience," said Holzhauer. "Discussing leadership and social change away from school sounds incredible."

Holzhauer added, "I learned that there are so many more opportunities for leadership than I was previously aware of and that leadership at Muhlenberg is in no way elitist. If you want to succeed in a leadership role, Muhlenberg is here to grant you the resources."

Lockdown drill in Moyer Hall

Campus Safety conducts first active shooter drill of year

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Oct. 17, Campus Safety conducted the first lockdown drill of the 2019-2020 academic school year in accordance with the Emergency Management Plan for the College and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act. The drill took place in Moyer Hall and was announced via the Omnilert Emergency Notification system, which sent out text messages to indicate the start and end of the drill.

The lockdown drill, or shelter-in-place drill, served as an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to apply the lockdown measures, which pertain to the "Lock Out" section of the 3 OUTS presentation that has been taking place on campus since the beginning of the semester. All students enrolled at Muhlenberg will have participated in the 3 OUTS training by the end of the fall semester. Brenda Lakis, Associate Director of Campus Safety, further elaborated on the necessity of training and lockdown drills in response to the increase of school shootings throughout the country.

"The College administration is aware of the importance of the training and making sure community members are trained with what to do in case of an emergency, such as an active shooter. Keeping our community safe by educating in what to do in this situation is a priority," explained Lakis. "We hope it never happens on campus, but if it does, our students, faculty and staff are prepared to respond. This training isn't just for when you are on campus. It can help for situations at anytime, anywhere. If we can prevent one or several persons from being injured or a victim of a shooting, we have done our job."

The Clery Act requires college campuses to have at least two active shooter drills per year. Muhlenberg conducts one each semester, with Moyer Hall hosting this most recent drill. Lakis explained the process behind determining which building on campus will participate.

"This is a joint effort between campus safety and public relations. When we decide on a building, several factors are involved: if we have not done one in a particular building, what might be scheduled in the buildings at the time of the drill, etc.," said Lakis. "Preparing for the drill starts weeks in advance."

The active shooter drills involve certain procedural steps that are observed by Campus Safety. During the actual drill itself, multiple members of Campus Safety arrived on scene to ensure that everyone was acting accordingly.

"Members of Campus Safety meet at the location of the drill," explained Lakis. "We check to make sure our notification system is working, occupants in the building or classroom are following lockdown procedures. We check for any weaknesses that might occur."

Campus Safety was pleased with the overall outcome of the drill. It was reported that participating faculty, staff and students took the situation seriously and were quick to initiate the lockdown measures they had learned.

"We were happy with the response of the people inside the building," Lakis noted. "Almost all the occupants responded well and followed locking themselves in, some even barricaded doors; I was quite impressed."

Jenna Levin '21, who was in Moyer during the drill, seemed to appreciate the experience gained from the simulation.

"This was my first lockdown experience at Muhlenberg. I was in a class in the basement of Moyer, and in the middle of the lecture, the smartboard's screen changed and stated that we were having a lockdown drill," said Levin. "The classroom that we were in had several rooms attached to it with no windows and doors that automatically lock, so all the students went into those rooms. I would say that this drill helped me prepare for future emergencies because it made me think about what the best thing to do in this type of situation would be and where the best exits to flee are."

As school shootings continue to pose an all too real threat across the nation, Campus Safety works year round to ensure that both Campus Safety members and the public are well-informed and well-trained for any situation. Over the summer, an active shooter simulation was held on campus in Robertson Hall, to which local law enforcement agencies were invited.

"We run different scenarios using a residential building. Officers have the opportunity to train for and be prepared for a variety of incidents that could occur on campus," explained Lakis. "It's always good to run drills and scenarios. Training for a critical incident with other agencies is a good way to predict what type of response we would have in a critical incident."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"Dance is the hidden language of the soul."

- Martha Graham

Come lose yourself and find 'Berg's *Into the Woods*

Photo Courtesy of Madison Whiting '22

Marin Diddams '21 as Cinderella dances with Tommy Gedrich '21, her prince, during a rehearsal of *Into the Woods*.

By Allie Willhouse
Contributing Writer

Don't delay or be misled, Muhlenberg Theatre & Dance is proud to present Stephen Sondheim's *Into the Woods* from Oct. 25 to Nov. 3 in Empie Theatre at the Baker Center for the Arts. *Into the Woods* tells the story of the Baker and his wife and their wish to have a child. Along the way, they meet our other favorite fairytale characters, including Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack from *Jack and the Beanstalk*, Rapunzel and several others. As each character travels into the woods to gain their wishes, they face the consequences of what the wishes truly entail. Directed by Beth Schachter, choreographed by Samuel Antonio Reyes and musically directed by Ed Bara, *Into the Woods* is sure to be a treat for all who attend.

Renowned for its meaningful messages, *Into the Woods* is loved by all of the cast and crew members. In order to provide more students opportunities, some of the roles were double cast. The Baker, Jack, the step-sisters and the giantess were all double-cast roles. This creates two casts, differentiated by the names "Woods" and "Sondheim." Hanah Gershkowitz '20, who portrays the Stepmother, and Albert Garrido '21, who plays the Baker in the Sondheim cast (Caden Fraser '20 portrays him in the Woods cast), both found special connections within the show.

"It has a lot of sentimental value because I'm a senior and Sondheim shows hold such meaning," said Gershkowitz. "I think it's closer to a more thought-provoking musical. I was in the musical *Sunday in the Park with George* my sophomore year, and just in comparison to this process, there is much more thinking and [learning] from the material...you learn that the journey is the story, and the story is continuous. That holds a lot of value for someone who is leaving campus in a semester and a half."

"You listen to the music and it resonates so well with you, and I think there are a lot of life lessons that people will like," Garrido said. "I think it's just the whole idea of the woods, and how the woods are like life. Life happens. The song I sing, 'No More,' is about [how] to get to a great spot, you have to endure a hard time."

A Tony-Award winning score, *Into the Woods* is a musical masterpiece. Jack Armstrong '22, who plays the role of Jack in the Woods cast (Sean Kenny '20 plays Jack in the Sondheim cast), is entranced by it.

"Still, when I'm listening to this music, I get giddy when there's a key change or something," said Armstrong. "It's so masterful."

The cast has been pouring themselves into their rehearsals. They began practicing in the Rehearsal House until they made the move into Empie Theatre this past week. Usually, they practice from 7-11 p.m. Monday through Friday with an additional rehearsal on Saturday, but due to the show being on the horizon, the rehearsal rate has increased.

At rehearsal on Friday, Oct. 18, every detail was being put to the test. If a scene, light or gesture did not cast the effect that was meant to be portrayed, it was reworked to perfection. This meticulous process is what turns a show from good to great.

Each scene has different lighting cues, which require different brightness levels, color and gobos, or sheets placed in front of lights to change their effects. Specifically, in this show, gobos are used to make the stage appear as though the sun is peeking through the trees of the woods.

The wonderful set designs enhance the experience of the members of the audience. Not only is there a backdrop of the beautifully mysterious woods that changes color with the mood of the scene, but there are also sets of moving trees. Of course, the characters are not going to stay in one spot in the woods, so the trees move to change the scenery.

Although the character of the Wolf was not in his full garb at this rehearsal, his ears, tail and claws truly brought the character alive. Before getting into character, as he was assuming his position on stage, Connor McCully '22 as the Wolf jokingly made movements that unintentionally displayed the magnificence of the set piece and costume design. With a flash of his claws, the Wolf surely established himself as a character to watch carefully during the production.

The cast and crew have developed an amazing bond throughout the rehearsal process as well. Before the rehearsal began, they chatted excitedly amongst each other about their current similar interests, like the Netflix original show *The Politician*. However, some of the actors get to work together more closely, namely those who are double-cast with another student.

"It's really interesting because you have to work with your double so closely," said AnnieRose DiMurro '22, who plays Lucinda, one of Cinderella's stepsisters. "You're getting new ways to interact with people on stage and new influences from your double, so just working from that perspective is really interesting because you get to work with [not just] your cast, but the extended cast as well," she continued.

Each of the actors have different ways of approaching their roles due to each character's uniqueness. Garrido said he obviously does not want a child right now like the Baker does, being only 21; however, he identifies with having a wish, which is something everyone can relate to. The process was a bit different for DiMurro.

"To get into character, throughout the rehearsal process, I was working on it, but when they gave us our costumes, it really helped...This character is larger than life, but you could see her walking down into a club, which just makes it more realistic." said DiMurro about her character, Lucinda.

Take a journey into the woods with our amazingly talented cast starting this Friday, Oct. 25 through Sunday, Nov. 3. Tickets are on sale now at muhlenberg.edu/theatre or by phone at (484)-644-3333.

Baila Con Nosotros: A cultural celebration for social change

By Danny Milkis
Staff Writer

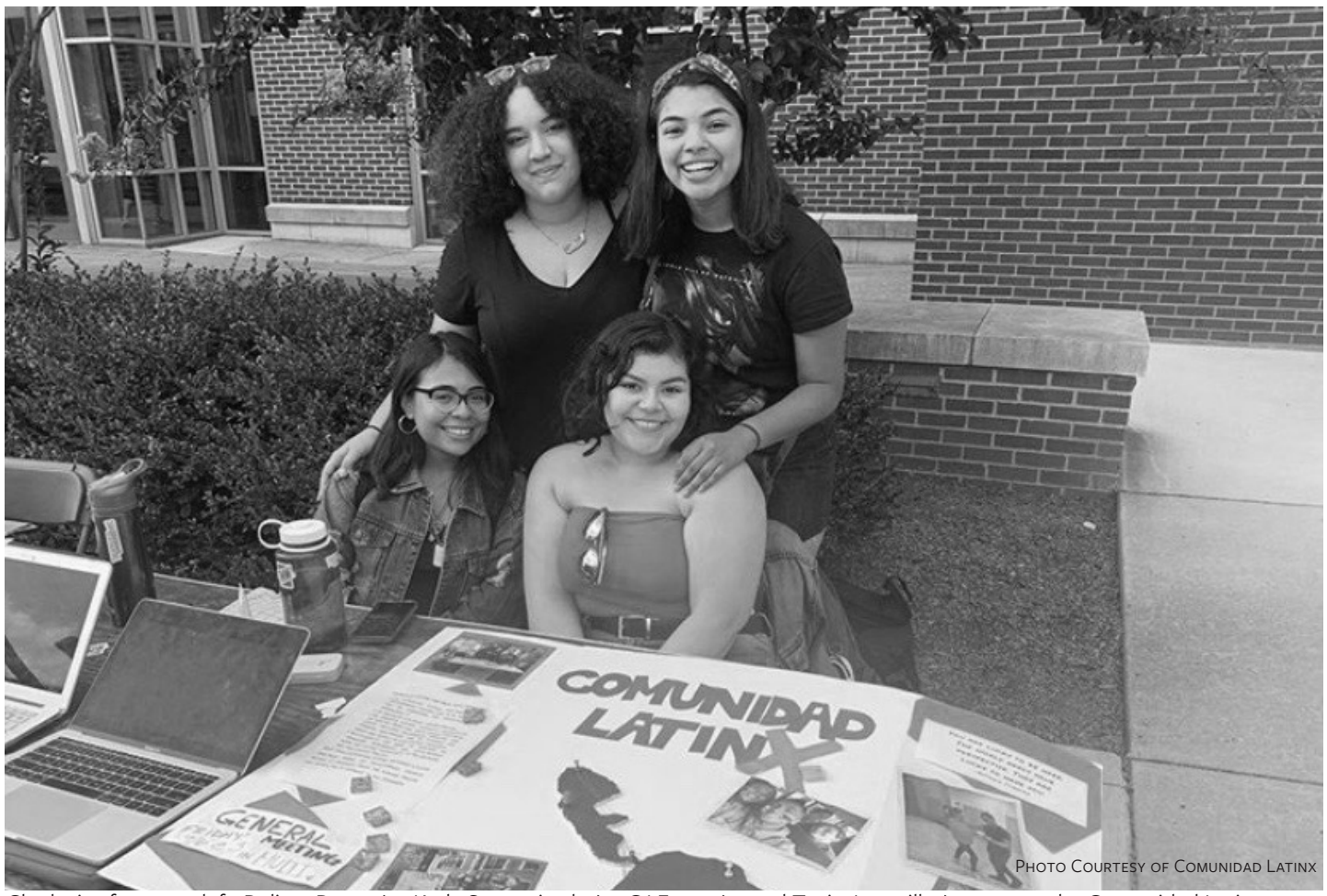

Photo Courtesy of Comunidad Latinx

Clockwise from top left: Dalissa Duran '21, Karla Stagastizado '21, CJ Funes '22 and Tania Jaramillo '22 pose at the Comunidad Latinx booth during this fall's activities fair.

Here at Muhlenberg, cultural expression is not only accepted with open arms, but embraced and celebrated. As with so many other organizations in the community working to bring more diversity and cultural inclusion to the greater Lehigh Valley area, Muhlenberg itself has taken strides within its community to make a difference. There are a number of vastly different programs working to represent the school's diverse population and some of the most prolific of these are student-run clubs and organizations. The impact being made by these clubs and organizations is all-encompassing, with an expanding influence that is turning heads at various cultural events around town.

The bottom line: making a difference doesn't take an army. It only requires a few people to make a serious change, and that's how Muhlenberg College students Dalissa Duran '21 and CJ Funes '22 feel about the work they've accomplished through their organization, Comunidad Latinx. Duran and Funes use a series of engaging community activities in order to spread awareness about their heritage and to allow others to enjoy the lifestyle that has permitted the identities of so many of their fellow students to blossom here on campus.

"I dream that every single person here will be able to appreciate every culture for what it brings to the table."

Funes, the treasurer of Comunidad Latinx, explained that "often times we [Comunidad Latinx] will put on entertaining movies, such as *Real Women Have Curves, Under The Same Moon* and *In the Time of the Butterfly*, to assist in sharing the larger impact of our roots in the entertainment industry." With the entertainment industry so high in demand in the current climate of American society, the group brings to the forefront an increasingly popular medium in illustrating the large quantity of social innovations which have served to benefit the Hispanic community.

Funes also described an earlier project in which the organization placed physical representations of Central America, the Caribbean and South America in Seegers Union to attract the attention of those passing through.

Sept. 15th through Oct. 15 marked the celebration and observation of Hispanic Heritage Month, and following a number of community engagement events, including these film screenings, Funes, Duran and their colleagues in Comunidad Latinx decided to go even bigger for the final event of this season. This past Saturday, Oct.19, Comunidad Latinx hosted *Baila Con Nosotros*, meaning *Dance With Us*, in Miller Forum from 10:30 p.m. until 1:30 a.m. During this time, snacks were served, and a roaring celebration erupted throughout the Forum, featuring popular electronic and party-friendly dance music in Spanish.

Duran, the club's president, referred to Baila Con Nosotros as "a big, final celebration of Hispanic Heritage month." Even with the heavy commotion surrounding Arts Marathon this Saturday, a large number of people came out to show their support for the incredible work that Comunidad Latinx had done to promote inclusivity on campus. "I just want people to have an amazing time celebrating the culture that I've been passionate about — that we're all passionate about — with us this weekend," said Duran. "That's what it should be about: having fun and creating an experience worth talking about."

Duran then went on to explain how personal these events and Comunidad as a whole were to her and how much they have shaped her experience at Muhlenberg. "The club and the party and the things we've been doing are ways to represent myself. I put my heart into it, and I want my peers to see that and embrace that with me." *Baila Con Nosotros* took the party and rave culture associated with the activity preferences of college students and created a safe, nurturing environment where the fun element of a classic music-and-dance party became associated with positive messages and education about the intricacies of Hispanic heritage. It became something of a window into a culture unfamiliar to some students and celebrated similarities and differences within the context of the textbook American college experience.

In addition, both board members spoke about how the communal expression of their culture speaks to the principle of culture as a narrative and how the group is trying to weave together a story based on how they want to represent themselves to their classmates. "It's really important to have so much support from the school and from the student body," said Funes. "It really speaks to what the people here value and how worldly Muhlenberg students and faculty truly are."

When asked about the future of the organization, Duran explained that there is one main goal that is driving herself and her fellow members of Comunidad Latinx: "I want to make the future infinitely more transparent here on campus," she affirms. "I dream that every single person here will be able to appreciate every culture for what it brings to the table, and for all of us to be kind, be brave, and learn from one another."

Artist of the week: Emma Giordano '23

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

First-year student Emma Giordano '23 is dancing her way onto the Muhlenberg scene. As a dancer for 15 years, her love of dance started when she was just a preschooler and was enrolled in dance classes at her school. "I just never stopped after that," Giordano notes. "I was really lucky to find something I loved at such a young age." Since then, she has been dancing continuously and cites jazz and modern as her favorite genres to perform.

Competing with her team for four years has taught her how to be a team player and work efficiently with others.

For Giordano, dancing is much more than just a hobby. She says that dance has "shaped so much of who [she] is as a person," as well as having taught her many important life lessons. Dancing on a competition team for four years, she truly has dedicated so much time to what she loves to do most.

"Being on the competition team taught me time management, discipline, professionalism and so much more that [continues] to help me in my day-to-day life," Giordano adds. "But I think the most valuable lesson I have learned from dance, and something I'm still working on, is not comparing myself to others. Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses, and it is so easy to get wrapped up in thinking that you will never be as 'good' as the next person. It is so important to focus on how you can work to be the best dancer you can be while still supporting everyone around you."

As a theatre major, Giordano expresses interest and enthusiasm in either majoring or minoring in dance and is looking forward to improving her skills and learning during her next four years at Muhlenberg and beyond. She is currently taking the Dance Technique and Performance class and is also involved in the Muhlenberg Dance Association (MDA) and the Moving Stories and Dance Gallery performances. "Even after just a few weeks, I already have a better understanding of my body and dance itself," she continues. "I love the dance program here!"

For Giordano, dance has created a family of which she will always be a part. For much of her life, she has been dancing with

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many of the same people she has grown up with and will always treasure the memories she has created with them in her heart. She credits her first dance teacher, Miss Monica, as her biggest inspiration to continue dancing over the years.

For Giordano, dance has created a family of which she will always be a part.

"The founder of my dance studio and my first teacher passed away a few years ago, and I had been dancing with her for my entire life," Giordano explains. "She taught me so much about dance, but even more about life. This, along with her passion and dedication, inspires me to keep dancing every day."

Through dance, Giordano has built lifelong friendships and relationships that she will never forget. While she has many incredible memories from dance, her all-time favorite was when her pieces won first place at her first-ever competition. For Giordano, the "anticipation of awards and getting to celebrate" was so special because she knew that her and her team's hard work preparing for the competition had paid off. Competing with her team for four years has taught her how to be a team player and work efficiently with others.

She describes her favorite piece, "The Last Leaf," which she danced with her studio, as "beautiful and powerful." As this was one of the last dances she performed before her high school graduation, she felt a "very strong emotional connection to the piece since the beginning." One of Giordano's favorite things about dance, particularly this piece, are the stories and emotions that can be portrayed through movement. In this dance, she and about 20 of her teammates each wore fake leaves on their wrists and created a tree together with their bodies. Each leaf broke off of the tree and danced in the wind until they had all met the ground except for one, leaving the message of the dance up for interpretation. She and her dance team performed this dance for two years, and it will always be meaningful to her.

Giordano is thrilled to be continuing her dancing career at Muhlenberg. Wherever her future takes her, she "cannot wait to keep learning!"

COURTESY OF EMMA GIORDANO '23

Emma Giordano '23 shares her passion for dance.

Playing with the audience:

MIA presents Mamma MIA: Here We Go Again!

BY ARIELLE MOSS
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

"We don't write scripts! The beauty of improv is that it's all on the fly," said Colin Hauck '20.

On Thursday, Oct. 17, members of the performance ensemble Muhlenberg Improv Association (MIA) had their first show of the semester, Mamma MIA: Here We Go Again! MIA is a short-form comedy group and is the oldest such group on campus. Last Thursday's show marked the first performance ensemble show of the semester.

During their shows, members of MIA play improv games. Although they have a "mega list" of games to choose from for their performances, the games they chose for last week's show were Good Cop/Bad Cop, Hollywood Director, On the Scene, Fandango, Objection, Ventriloquist, Family Dinner, Dunk Tank and World's Worst/Scenes from a Hat.

"We don't write scripts! The beauty of improv is that it's all on the fly."

The improvisers have to be thinking and focused while playing these games, as they sometimes require group members to remember hints and accurately guess the character that they're playing. The first game, Good Cop/Bad Cop, required three improvisers, two of them acting as cops and one acting as the criminal being questioned. This game, like many of the games during the show, allowed for audience participation. The audience was asked to choose who the criminal was, what their crime was and which weapon they used to commit the crime.

ARIELLE MOSS / THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Sophie Pulver '20, Rachel Carrara '21, Joey Marcacci '23 and Max Weiner '22 play Hollywood Director at the first MIA performance of the semester.

Mary Fiala '20 played the criminal at last week's show. She left the Event Space as the audience made choices for the three categories. With the hints given by the "cops," Fiala was able to guess that she was playing Sleeping Beauty, who had stolen a horse using a spoon as her weapon. The audience was amazed at how quickly she was able to figure out who she was. As Fiala puzzled through certain aspects of the role she was playing, she gave indications of her knowledge with her responses, which lead her to start acting progressively more like Sleeping Beauty.

Each semester MIA holds auditions for new members. "We look for people who are fun and go with the flow; those who aren't afraid to take risks and love being a team player," said Sophie Pulver '20, who has been a member of MIA since her freshman year.

To prepare for shows, members of MIA begin each rehearsal by warming up with improv games, and they usually pick a couple of games to experiment with and perfect. They typically have rehearsals twice weekly, which total two and a half hours, though they rehearse once each day during the week leading up to a performance. A typical show can include between seven and 10 games. Each game varies in size, structure and style.

"After we play each game [during rehearsals], we discuss what worked and what didn't and try it again with new people," said Hauck, co-president of MIA.

Sometimes a member will share a new game with the group that is so funny that they add it to their "mega list."

A game that is traditionally played at MIA's first show of the semester is called "Dunk Tank." This game is played by members during their first-ever and last-ever shows with the group. During Dunk Tank, two members improvise a scene while the third member's head is in a bucket filled with water. The third member is not allowed to take their head out of the bucket until they raise their hand, which signals that they thought of a reason as to why they are wet that fits within the scene. Then, the member whose head was just in the bucket switches places with one of the members who was in the scene, and this rotates for a couple of rounds.

"It's a fun dumb game that gives your time in MIA a lot more of a 'full circle' kind of feel and definitely makes your last show a lot more sentimental," said Pulver. "You get this very bittersweet feeling watching your senior friends have their last MIA show experience, and then you get that fun double-punch knowing that that'll be you someday soon!"

"We look for people who are fun and go with the flow; those who aren't afraid to take risks and love being a team player."

New members Noah Katz '23, Joey Marcacci '23 and Taylor Reed '23 played the game at last week's show.

The last game that was played at the show was "World's Worst/Scenes from a Hat." Before each show begins, audience members write down scene ideas for members of MIA to perform. These scenes are very quick and can even be as short as five seconds long. Some scene ideas that were performed at last week's show were "world's worst college president," "world's worst trick-or-treater," "Muhlenberg in the year 3019" and "world's worst condom ad."

Improv shows are unique because they are very interactive in the way in which they revolve and often rely on the audience's participation.

"We usually have a fun audience and we love when our friends come and support us as well as seeing newer faces in the crowd! It's great when there's a lot of outreach," said Pulver.

Don't be MIA for this group's next show!

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Faceless injustice

On the morning of Oct. 7, we here at The Weekly woke up to a series of strange emails in our editorial inbox. All were received at around 4 a.m. that morning and boasted subject lines begging for our confirmation from more than 20 email subscriptions encompassing everything from a Goodreads account to an Australian food service. We were stumped. How could this have happened? What was the goal? Had someone really hacked our email just to keep track of their annual reading challenge progress? We simply didn't know.

So we did what any good journalists with a question would do: we dug a little deeper. We opened those confirmation emails, making sure to avoid the all-too-obvious trap of clicking on any links. All the accounts and subscriptions, as it turned out, had been signed up for under the same disgusting name, one full of slurs. It didn't take too much research to confirm the story that followed. We'd been just one of their many would-be victims in a mass email hack targeting accounts attached to WordPress, which hosts our website, in an attempt to trick users into revealing their credit card information. The far-right group is known for trolling prominent figures such as former President Obama and for using the internet as a medium of terror. If you weren't surprised to read anything before this sentence, if you couldn't muster up a response beyond a slight widening of the eyes or a muttered expletive, we don't blame you. This is a narrative that's become far too familiar to all of us.

And, as we've seen, it's a narrative being brought to our campus in more ways than one in just the past few weeks. The hateful stickers plastered on Chew Street likewise call to mind an aimless, widespread, indiscriminate wash of racist, xenophobic, homophobic, transphobic and white supremacist ideals messily splattered about by groups of people hiding — in this case quite literally — behind masks. In a country run by an administration that at best turns the other cheek when confronted with and at worst actively endorses such ideals, what can we expect? This kind of behavior is enabled, encouraged, by the highest seat in the United States. Those up there don't — or won't — change, so we do, even if we try our hardest to avoid it. We're presented with the magnitude of the world's hatred in so many ways, both big and small, on an almost daily basis. After a while, we look hatred in the face and can only manage to sigh in disappointment. We read about injustice and can only manage to shake our heads. We see hateful stickers and email hacks so close to home and forget about them after a few hours.

In some ways, this might actually constitute a powerful form of resistance. If we just keep going about our lives when faced with exceptionally hateful rhetoric, ignoring its clearly disdainful message, those who spread that rhetoric have effectively failed. Problem solved, right?

But we can't keep ignoring forever. We can't keep widening our eyes and muttering and sighing and shaking our heads and forgetting. At some point, we have to push back against the hatred; at some point, we have to stand up and preach a message of love and acceptance loud and clear. This may sound like a monumental task in the face of so much opposition, but if these groups can continuously come up with new, small ways to mobilize themselves and their ideas, why can't we do the same?

We're not planning on keeping quiet anytime soon. Are you?

This is just to fill space

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit... Seriously, I'm just not feeling it today.

Look here kid, I'm not gonna mince words with you, nor will I be mincing meat. I've got nothing for this article. I'm writing this article for the sole purpose of filling some extra space in this newspaper issue. This newspaper is The Muhlenberg Weekly. And I am Will. You see, I'm just writing this just so we get those sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet words in. It's not that I don't want to write a good article, I really do, but I just don't have that good stuff right now. You know, some days you have it, some days you do not have it.

And today, I do not have it. To operate at the level I write at, you've got to get into a funny zone. And baby, I live there. But the problem is that I got kicked out. You see, I got into a big fight with my funny wife (aka my creativity) and she sent me straight to the dog house. And then I got into an even bigger fight with my funny dog (aka my backup imagination) and now I'm sleeping on the couch in the dog house of my mind. This is all to say that I got a bad night of sleep and am doing my best to get by.

Look here, kid: things have been tough lately. I'm going through a lot and I have neither the time nor the energy to write the same genius I always do. I want to keep going with this, but I don't know how long I can. Do you know how much goes into writing these articles? Honestly, not that much. But I can't always be the one to do it. That's why I'm forced to write this junk, no substance, no voice, no point. Nothing like the junk I used to write. I used to write real satire. I took down idiotic opinions through clever twists and biting jokes while maintaining my voice throughout. But now I'm doing this, just putting down whatever because that's my job.

Please free me from this mental prison. If you are reading this, please write something for this paper, anything. I don't care if you think you are a bad writer or if you think that your opinion isn't worth being in the paper. This article is in the paper; any of your writing is going to have more substance than this. I mean come on, help me out and let me take a week off to relax. I need some R and R and R and R. Rest and Relaxation and Redemption and Real, talk.

It's tough because sometimes you just don't have the energy to do something like this. But then you also committed and you want to honor your commitments. But is it worth it when this is the outcome? But you know what? I filled this space and got it done. I did what I had to and even if this is the product, it just means my bar is even lower and even easier to exceed. I really don't have any final point, I got what I needed to get done and that's fine.

Por cada cuerpo que respire

By Val Weisler
Contributing Writer

Veo las brechas

Son pequeñas y grandes y todos los conocen, pero nadie quiere hablar de ellas

Veo las brechas

Son las historias que nos encanta contar sobre cómo llegamos aquí y son las historias que nunca compartimos porque nos dan vergüenza

Veo las brechas

Son las cosas que te hicieron venir aquí (te gustó la hierba verde y la gente amable)

Y son las cosas que me hicieron venir aquí (la ayuda financiera fue suficiente)

Estas brechas palpitan dentro de mí entre los latidos de mi corazón

Caminan conmigo a clase

Se sientan conmigo

Cenan y se unen a mí en cada trabajo que hago

Estas brechas me susurran al oído que necesito trabajar el doble que la persona que está a mi lado

Nadie quiere hablar sobre los estudiantes que están aquí porque fue esto o nada a menos que esos estudiantes tengan una historia de éxito

Nadie quiere hablar a menos que haya un "¡fue triste y ahora no lo es!" historia

Lucharé para cerrar las brechas hasta que todos estén hablando de estos temas

Y cada cuerpo que respire sea visto como valioso, pobre o rico

¿Ves las brechas?

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Girl reporter strikes again!

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

Whenever Lois Lane is mentioned, images of her being saved by Superman spring to mind, and that's definitely still the first thing people associate her with: being Superman's girlfriend and later wife. However, Lois has always been more than just a love interest — she's been an investigative journalist. In the 81 years since Lois's debut, the character has won a fictional Pulitzer Prize and gained a reputation as the hardest-hitting reporter in the DC universe.

DC Comics is currently capitalizing on that with *Lois Lane*, a 12-issue series featuring Lois as she works to uncover a story of government corruption, a story that has already lead to the death of a Russian journalist. As Lois pieces the information together and writes horribly misspelled articles, she's also the center of a news story herself, having been photographed kissing Superman despite public knowledge that she's married to fellow *Daily Planet* reporter Clark Kent.

The series is obviously pulling on current events, with Lois publishing an article on the refugee camps at the southern border in the first issue, an article that she uses to springboard questions during a White House Press Briefing. Lois finds herself kicked out of the briefing and ultimately has her credentials revoked.

This particular incident is starkly reminiscent of last November, when CNN White House Correspondent Jim Acosta had his credentials suspended following an incident at a White House Press Briefing where he posed a series of challenging questions to President Trump. While Lois is playing hardball with a fictional Press Secretary rather than the president, the two stories still obviously mirror each other.

Throughout the series Lois shows that while she's of interest to everyone, since all they're talking about is her kiss with Superman, her only concern is the truth and making sure that it's told, though the when and how is something that she's intent on controlling. In the fourth issue she expands on what the truth is and how it works, saying that it's "like booze or sugar. Too much makes you sick and most don't have the stomach for it even in small doses." That's why it's her job, in the role of a journalist, to share that truth in pieces that make it digestible to the public, even if that means risking her own life to do so. And at the end of the day, the truth is also an "antiseptic" and "after the shock wears off — if you can take it — you get the cure. You get to be healthy. As a person. As a society."

While we don't have superheroes to help with investigations or news stories involving aliens or family drama thanks to time travel, Lois's story does take a great look at what it means to be a journalist in today's society, especially when the White House hasn't had an official press briefing since March 11; when there are governments killing journalists to silence them like Jamal Khashoggi; when so much of society has grown distrustful of media and even more come to criticize journalists for being fellow humans, using that to discredit the work they do.

Lois also finds herself dealing with the latter as a media circus seems to spring up over the idea that she's having an affair with Superman. She's seen writing as a fictionalized version of *The View* speculates and overhears multiple people mutter insults and gossip as she meets with her source or husband, Clark Kent. Lois ignores all of it, since she knows the two men are one and the same and also knows that people are going to say what they will no matter what happens.

Writer Greg Rucka presents Lois as a whole person, not just a wife or just a journalist, but both. He shows her dealing with trials and tribulations in her personal and professional life, all the time parallelling our society's own complex feelings towards journalists right now. Rucka's writing creates empathy and gives insight into the life of a modern reporter, not to mention continuing to pose questions about the role of journalists, governments and society at large, and how they might translate to our world.

Fall treats for you and me

By Jarrett Azar
Staff Writer

I like to think of myself as a normal, fun-loving guy who likes to try new things. For guys like me, this time of year, also known as "spooky season," is the best time of year. It is a time where people are willing to put pumpkin in anything, and that, my friends, is very cool. So in honor, or should I say horror, of spooky season, I dedicated my time to trying some fun spooky season things so that you don't have to! I made a little list of all the things I would try and got to work. First on the list was to throw a big costume party. I set up the Facebook event and everything was going smoothly. That is until I realized I didn't have a slogan! Every great party needs a slogan! Now, while my slogan was amazing and very funny, I can't tell you here because I'm afraid you'll steal it from me, ya lil thief.

Now, I needed a costume. I decided on a Cats costume, mostly because I really loved the trailer for the new Cats movie (did you see how well the CGI was done? Jeez, so good), but also because it served a very vital purpose. So the day of the party rolls around and I am eating hair all day long, like a good cat would. Friends started arriving and all was going well; this is actually really fun and you should definitely try this one for spooky season!

For those of you who don't know what a ceremonial hairball is, then I don't know how you've made it this far in life.

Around midway through the party, I gathered everyone in the living room for the ceremonial hairball! For those of you who don't know what a ceremonial hairball is, then I don't know how you've made it this far in life. Essentially, a ceremonial hairball is just that, dummy; I hock up a hairball and all my friends love it, any more questions??

Next on my list was a corn maze! I went down to the local pumpkin patch and paid for my entry into the corn maze. Now, this is a message of warning to you readers looking to try this for yourselves: don't. I was genuinely scared and was in constant fear for my life. If you decide to partake in this festive activity, watch out for He-Who-Shall-Not-Be-Named (Voldemort). He comes out of nowhere, peeking his head through the corn stalks asking if you're Harry Potter. To which you will respond, "No, I'm a cat, meow." He will then proceed to give you a kiss on the cheek and drop a penny in your pocket for your troubles. At this point I started running and screaming, in hopes that I would eventually find my way out, which I did (probably).

Next on my list was to try one of those Pumpkin Spice Lattes the kids are always raving about. I made my way over to Starbucks, but watch out because the traffic was horrible (ugh!). Once I got there I saw a familiar face. The man himself, Cedric Diggory, was also ordering a Pumpkin Spice Latte! So, if you try this, be sure to tell Cedric, "Hey buddy, hopefully you're doing well, head to the hedge maze when you get a chance. xoxo."

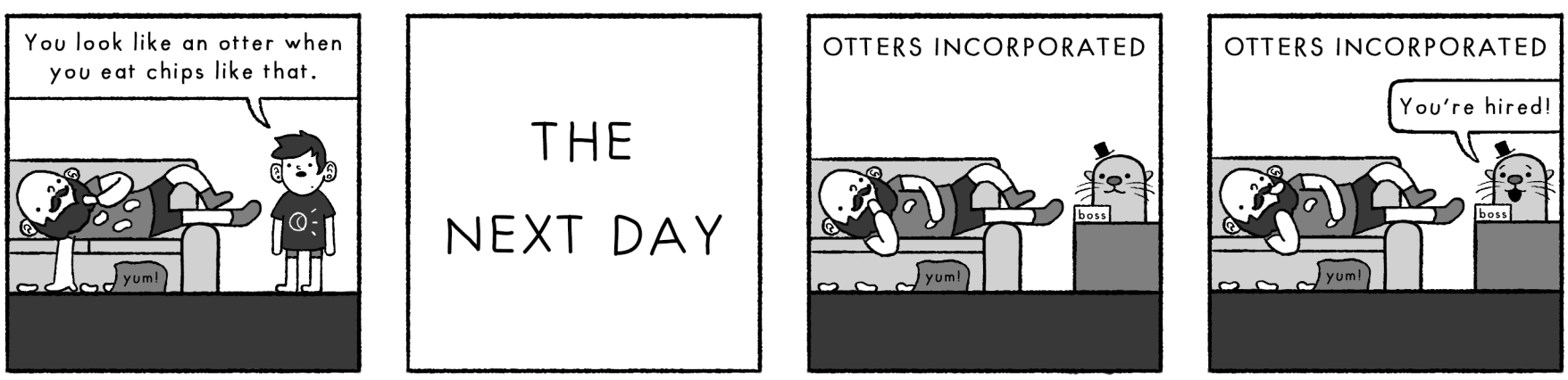
After that is said and done, you will finally get your hands on my first Pumpkin Spice Latte. I took a sip of the sweet, sweet nectar. It was pure bliss, and it will be for you too. Soon after that life-changing moment you will begin to have trouble breathing; you will figure it is just the latte, taking your breath away once again. Sadly, this is not the case, as you and I end up passing out and waking up in a hospital bed. Apparently we are allergic to Pumpking sweetness. Luckily, this provides a perfect opportunity to check off the last item on our list!

The final item on my list was to give out candy to little trick-or-treaters! I felt like I needed to make a difference in the lives of our youth and really create positive impact within my community. Luckily, I was still in my costume!

The hospital gave me candy and the night was underway. As I heard the joyous sounds of kids coming down the hall, I mentally prepared for all the good I would be doing. A large group of kids entered my room and yelled "Trick or Treat!," to which I promptly and happily offered them a ceremonial hairball. They were not pleased, and I couldn't figure out why. They all, one by one, started crying.

Despite what the kids think, I know I helped them a lot. Overall, these were all great spooky season activities, and you should try them not just for yourself, but for others.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS
By Nicolas Calá



Football shines under the Friday night lights

Mules continue their perfect season by dismantling Ursinus

By Samantha Brenner
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

James Diggs '21 runs around the defense during a 2018 game.

The Friday night lights shone bright at Scotty Wood Stadium as the Muhlenberg football team hit the field to play their first and only Friday night game of the season against Ursinus. The team went into the match winning a record of five straight games. Switching it up from their normal Saturday afternoon games, the Mules fed off of the energy from the crowd to help them power through.

The Mules started off strong, scoring a touchdown with 10 minutes left in the first quarter. Answering with two touchdowns, Ursinus went into the second quarter owning a 14-7 lead on the Mules.

With a 43-yard field goal in the second quarter by kicker Todd Spirt '20, the Mules regained their momentum and never looked back.

As the Mules headed into the locker room for halftime, they found themselves up 17-14.

Coming out of halftime, Mike Hnatkowsky '21 threw four touchdowns, leading the Mules to a 45-21 victory and continuing their undefeated season.

The Mules received a big game from tight end Ryan Curtiss '20, whose efforts propelled the team to take down a 3-3 Ursinus Bears group. Curtiss broke the Centennial Conference record for tight ends with three more touchdown receptions. In addition to his three touchdowns, Curtiss finished the day with 103 yards on seven receptions.

"As a team, we take each week game by game and never look past the next opponent we have," said Curtiss. "We had two weeks to prepare for Ursinus and that was all we were focused on. Our ultimate goal is to be undefeated in the regular season, but we make sure to take care of business week by week by going 1-0 each week."

The energy that comes with a Friday night game is something that Curtiss credits as a major motivator for the win.

"The atmosphere at the game was electric. Having played every game for the past four years on Saturdays, it was really fun and a cool experience to have a game under the lights on a Friday. The energy and atmosphere was much different but provided us a boost to play very well, as we did." said Curtiss.

Looking toward the future, especially towards Mount Union, Curtiss plans to take it one game at a time. "No matter what opponent is in front of us, we will play them the same way and give it our all. We are an experienced team and have postseason experience, which will help us down the road. We control our destiny...our group of guys are ready for any challenge and will be prepared." Curtiss added.

For running back James Diggs '21, the team's success as a major win. "The main factor was playing through our mishaps. In the first half we made a couple mistakes and we were able to fight through those mistakes. Once we got back to playing our brand of football, we were in good shape and the Mules were able to keep rolling," said Diggs.

Diggs stresses working together and coming up from the small mistakes that the team makes.

Just like Curtiss, Diggs felt that there was something special about playing on a Friday night, especially for his first Friday night game.

"The night game definitely brought a different vibe to the stadium for sure. It was a little weird at first with us being under the lights and everything, but when we were on the field playing, it was a really cool environment," said Diggs.

With this game in the past, the junior halfback looks towards the next game. "Right now we're only focused on whoever's in front of us. We take things one game at a time and focus on whoever's in front of us." Diggs remarked.

"The atmosphere at the game was electric."

For this victory, wide receiver Max Kirin '20, in a wildcat formation, found Curtiss and connected for his second touchdown on the day.

Kirin praises the team for their performance on Friday night, believing that it sprung from their intense practices.

"Our work ethic in practice has been great. Week in and week out, we push each other in practice and get a little better every day. We are really hitting our stride as we get deeper into the season because of how hard we practice every day," said Kirin.

"We are just going to focus on what we can control and what's in front of us, and right now that is McDaniel. As long as we get better every week, we will be peaking at the perfect time to do some special things in the postseason," Kirin stated.

The Mules travel to Westminster, Maryland on Saturday, Oct. 26 to take on a 3-3 McDaniel College squad at 2 p.m.

from **Wrestling** page 12

ning the conference and, most importantly, getting guys to nationals. Last year we should have had at least two of us get to nationals, but things did not fall the way we needed it to in those matches," Schaeffer continued.

"That killed us at the end of the year last year, but we are hungry and willing to do whatever it takes to get there. With winning the conference, we took third last year at the tournament and we were away. This year we are at home and plan on winning the whole thing in front of our fans and family."

Like every year, the team has lost key contributors to graduation while adding a bunch of new faces as well. Luckily, McLean has been able to fit them right into the current team and system in place.

"The freshmen are falling right in. They are in a different place than those before them, and hopefully they are learning to value everything that Muhlenberg College wrestling is about," said McLean. "They are getting a unique opportunity in learning from a strong group that have been the cornerstones of the rebuild," McLean made clear.

This will be key to the team, as they are looking to develop the future of the program and to make it a successful season for the upperclassmen this year as well.

Schaeffer has very similar feelings about the vital role of the freshman members. "We only lost one guy from last year, but he was a huge part of our team," Schaeffer said. "With the incoming group of freshmen in the room to help prepare the upperclassmen and push us to be the best, it will create a great team dynamic...We should be unstoppable this year and [we] have the best group of guys to get it done," he continued.

"This year we are at home and plan on winning the whole thing in front of our fans and family."

This is a great mindset the team has going into the season which will no doubt carry over to those who are just beginning their careers at the collegiate level.

In order for the Mules to be successful this year, they must use both their experience and their camaraderie to push each other to get better each and every time they hit the mats. With the freshmen around to motivate the upperclassmen, this season is sure to be victorious for this squad that hopes to utterly dominate the competition.

Pair of 'Berg coaches get nods in Halls of Fame

Jason Toedter and Kevin Hopkins inducted for athletic accomplishments

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

Men's basketball coach Kevin Hopkins and men's tennis coach Jason Toedter were recently inducted into halls of fame for their achievements as student-athletes. Toedter, a 2006 graduate of Morarvian College, was inducted into the Moravian Athletics Hall of Fame, while Hopkins was inducted into the Saratoga Springs High School Blue Streak Hall of Fame for his outstanding high school basketball career.

For Hopkins, the support system that he had at Saratoga Springs played a major role in receiving the recognition.

"It was a tremendous honor to be inducted into my high school's hall of fame. Although it was an individual honor, I think that it spoke volumes about the type of teammates, coaches and support that I have been surrounded by throughout both my playing and coaching careers," Hopkins explained. "I don't think there has ever been an individual who has been inducted into the Hall of Fame that was not surrounded by great people. My induction was a great platform to be able to thank those individuals for their contributions, guidance and support."

One of Hopkins' many life-long supporters throughout his athletic career was his mother, a long-time secretary for the athletic department at Saratoga Springs High School. When first hearing the news, Hopkins thought that his mother pulled a few strings to land him into the hall of fame. "My mom has worked in the athletics department at my high school as a secretary for the athletic director since I was in school," Hopkins said. "When I first heard the news of being inducted into the Hall of Fame, I asked the athletic director who my mom had blackmailed to get me in. I was surprised because I had a good high school career, but not hall of fame-worthy."

However, Hopkins received the award for his basketball accomplishments after his high school career. Hopkins went on to play basketball at Amherst College, where he helped lead the Mammoths to their first Division III National Championship. After graduating from Amherst, Hopkins found success as a player in Germany, receiving All-Regionalliga North first team honors from Eurobasket.com.

Transitioning from player to coach, Hopkins served as an assistant coach at his alma mater and helped lead Amherst to another National Championship in 2013. He then went back to the professional game after a three-year stint at Amherst and became a coaching coordinator for the Santa Cruz Warriors. In 2017, Hopkins was named head coach of Muhlenberg's men's basketball team and has helped the Mules inch closer to reaching the Centennial Conference Playoffs.

With tremendous success as a player and a coach over the past 15 years, Hopkins was informed by his high school's athletic director that his impressive basketball resume after his playing time at Saratoga Springs was a main factor in receiving the honor.

"Once the athletic director explained that the induction was based not only was on my performance in high school, but also based on my college and professional playing career at Amherst College and in Germany, as well as my coaching career at Amherst College, with the Santa Cruz Warriors and now at Muhlenberg, I understood," Hopkins said.

Even after earning such a prestigious honor, Hopkins feels that his drive to help younger athletes succeed remains unchanged, as his personal achievements do not fuel his motivation to share his passion for basketball with others. "Although it was a great experience to receive this type of recognition, I do not think that it has changed my passion for the game or for teaching student-athletes. My motivations are not linked to my own personal achievements or awards. I am more interested in how I can help put other people (teammates or players) in positions to be successful. If helping others leads to individual recognition for me, then that is just a bonus."

Second-year head tennis coach Jason Toedter was given the nod into the Moravian Athletics Hall of Fame for his outstanding playing throughout his collegiate career. Even in his very first year, Toedter was destined for greatness, having won Rookie of the Year in 2001. Over the course of his outstanding career, Toedter won the 2004 Middle Atlantic Conference championship in men's singles play. Over his four years as a Greyhound, Toedter finished with a record of 54-18 in singles play, a record that still stands in the Moravian record-books.

In just a couple weeks, Hopkins will officially begin his third season as men's basketball coach when the Mules take the court for the first time during the 2019-2020 season at Moravian on Nov. 8. With a young and hungry team, Hopkins will look to add more achievements to his already impressive basketball resume, while Toedter and Mule tennis just wrapped up their fall season and gear up for the spring.

Ladies Volley 4 A Cure with Gettysburg

'Berg volleyball dedicates game with Gettysburg to the children of CHOP

By Alex Blum
Sports Section Editor

Muhlenberg volleyball stepped into Memorial Hall on Saturday, Oct. 19 looking to take their record against conference opponents to 4-3. On the heels of two forceful victories versus Mary Washington and Ursinus, the Lady Mules were eager to maintain their late season push. Not only were these statement wins fuel to continue their steady play, but the team-wide Volley 4 A Cure campaign, a longstanding tradition of supporting those with childhood cancer at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, was meant to provide them with the extra push they needed.

The first two sets with Gettysburg, who currently stand at sixth in the Centennial Conference, certainly proved to give the Mules trouble as they pulled away for 25-16 and 25-13 victories. In the third set, however, the Mules got some momentum. The deciding set would be intense all throughout, and with kills by both Megan Ray '22 and Maggie Enestvedt '20 as well as an ace from Maya Illovsky '21, the Mules would take themselves a late 18-17 lead.

As the intensity-filled third set concluded, the Bullets of Gettysburg departed Memorial Hall victorious. As the season comes down to the wire and the Mules now find themselves at 3-4 in conference play and 9-12 overall, the playoffs are still within reach. However, Tara Register '20 has a sense of what the group needs to work on in order to ensure a playoff berth.

"Moving forward, we need to be able to adapt quicker to what the other team is doing. This will be a really big key in being successful these last couple of matches," Register said.

She also acknowledged that with some formidable opponents coming up to wrap up the regular season, "cleaning up the little things and reducing the errors on our side of the net will be huge."

While the group did not get the outcome they had hoped for, the entire purpose of the day had a much bigger meaning, one that extended beyond the game of volleyball and bounds of Memorial Hall.

This past weekend's game marked Muhlenberg volleyball's annual philanthropy campaign, this year being Volley 4 A Cure. This initiative is in efforts to support the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and those diagnosed with childhood cancer. In previous years, the Lady Mules have organized similar events such as Dig for a Cure, Tanner's Touch and Rally for Reagan.

"Moving forward, we need to be able to adapt quicker to what the other team is doing. This will be a really big key in being successful these last couple of matches."

For a veteran player like Register, taking part in such a campaign is something that she looks forward to doing.

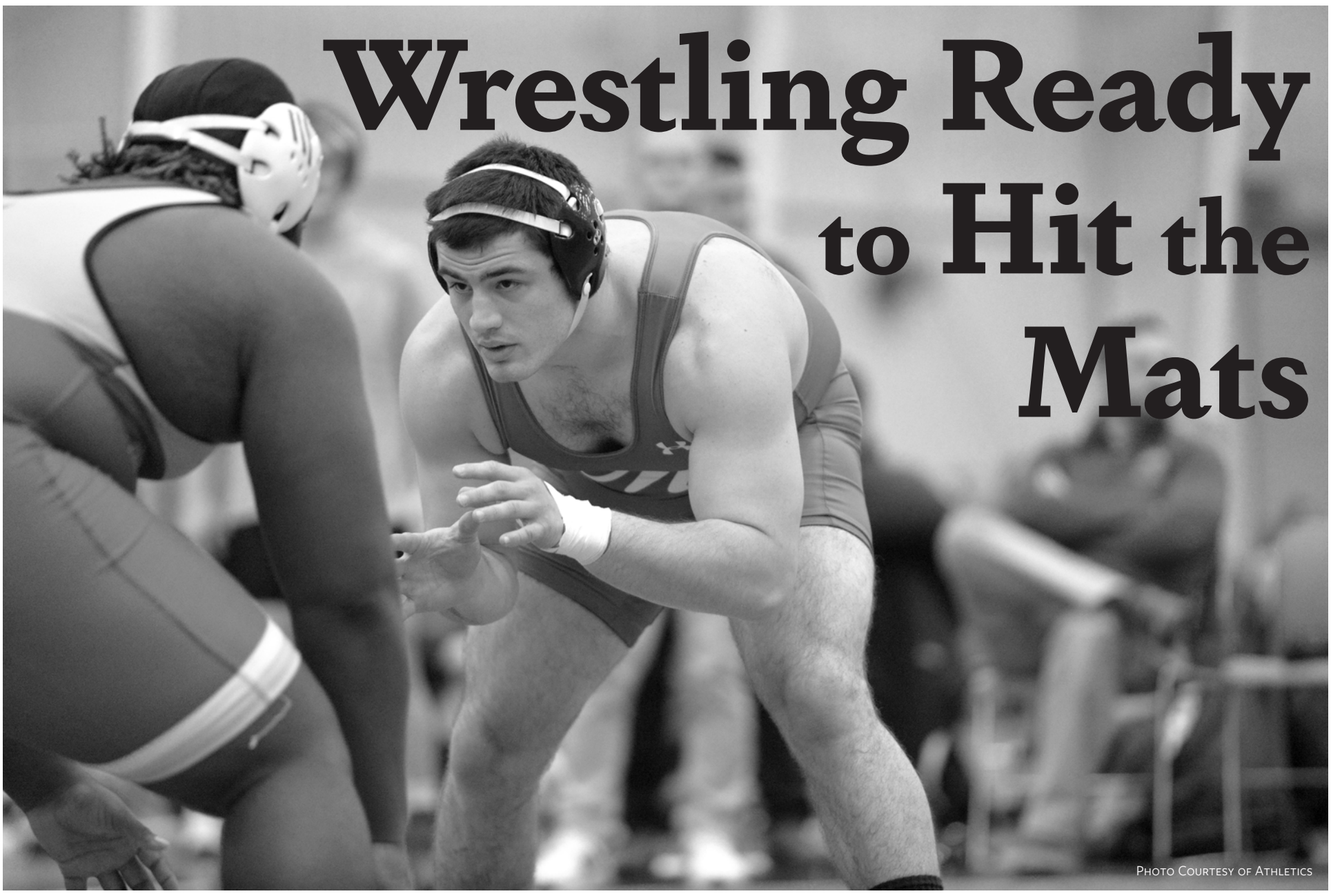
"Raising money for such a great cause like CHOP is always rewarding, and it's exciting to see how much money we raise for the cause each year. As I've been to CHOP and have seen first hand the amazing things they do for children suffering with illnesses, it is even more rewarding to play and to raise funds for such an incredible organization," Register said.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Tara Register '20 stands in wait for the ball to be served.

The final three matches of the season against McDaniel, Swarthmore and Washington College mark the end of the road for Register's remarkable volleyball career. Even faced with this unfortunate reality, Register is focused and has a gameplan. "As a senior, it's the last time that I will get to go out and play, so I'm looking to play loose and aggressively," said the outside hitter.

The purpose of the initiative of the past week with Volley 4 A Cure and the money raised in support of CHOP will undoubtedly push the Lady Mules to fight 'till the very end. If they can rally behind their praiseworthy campaign and listen to the words of an experienced player like Register, the group will find themselves in the playoffs.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



Wrestling Ready to Hit the Mats

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Scott Schaeffer '20 stares down his opponent during a match in 2018-19 season.

After posting an 18-7 record last season, the Mules look to improve all while taking on tougher competition

By Jordan Fisch
Contributing Writer

After finishing up the 2018-2019 season with six wrestlers being sent to the NCAA Mideast Regional and captain Gennaro Cerminara '19 closing out his career with a bang, the Mules are looking forward to the 2019-2020 season. They are eager to build off of their success when they start their season Nov. 9 with the Ned McGinley Invitational hosted by King's College. The team has a lot of experience coming into this year with nine seniors, four of which made the NCAA regional last year.

Coach Jason McLean '01 has been getting the wrestlers in a positive mindset before their season gets going. "They deserve success. They deserve to go out on top if they are seniors," said McLean. "As this program blossoms, they will always stand as the group that unselfishly put the program and Muhlenberg first."

While wrestling can be seen as an individual sport, McLean knows how important teamwork is to this sport, and the success of a team can often depend on the chemistry of the group.

With the guidance of McLean and his staff, the Mules have developed a great approach as they head into opening day. "We are preparing for the season by taking [it] one day at a time and keeping the energy at the same level each day. Everytime we step into the wrestling room or the weight room we have the same attitude and that is to get better each session," said wrestler Scott Schaeffer '20.

"We should be unstoppable this year and [we] have the best group of guys to get it done."

"When we improve little by little throughout the preseason, we will be prepared to take on anything when the season comes," Schaeffer stated.

The squad is coming into this year looking to improve upon their 18-7 record, a school record set last year. However, this time around, they are determined to go for more than a better record. "We are looking to blaze new trails, as we have strengthened the schedule even more than last year," said McLean. "We set the tone and bar as high as possible, permanently," he added.

Though the bar might be set higher than ever, the expectations the Mules hope to achieve are very much within their reach. The seniors have the most experience and are using their knowledge to improve not only themselves, but the entire team in ways that they know best. Schaeffer and his team are bringing that same attitude with them into the season and strongly wish to improve upon their performance from the previous year.

"This year, we plan on win-

see Wrestling page 10

Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Oct. 26-30

Women's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Saturday, Oct. 26 @ 1:00 p.m.
Westminster, MD

Field Hockey
Muhlenberg vs Swarthmore
Tuesday, Oct. 29 @ 7:00 p.m.
Swarthmore, PA

Men's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Dickinson
Wednesday, Oct. 30 @ 7:00 p.m.
Carlisle, PA

Volleyball
Muhlenberg vs Swarthmore
Wednesday, Oct. 30 @ 7:00 p.m.
Swarthmore, PA

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 7
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Read inside:

Nicolas Calá ‘21 serves up a sizzling new comic.

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NEWS

Haley Hnatuk ‘20 details Muhlenberg students’ recent trip to Ellis Island, sponsored by the Center for Ethics.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

WMUH’s first Radio Riff-Off was a success and gave students the opportunity to win a recording session with Silvertone Studios. In the end, Michael Sova ‘20 took home the prize as the first-place winner.

read more on 7

OP/ED

In this week’s *Speaking Your Language,* Michelle Rajan ‘21 delivers a poem about her relationship with herself, her languages and Muhlenberg’s campus in Hindi.

read more on 8

SPORTS

After remarkable finishes by both Jason Richwall ‘20 and Abby Dalton ‘22 at the Gettysburg Invitational, the cross-country Mules are ready for another big finish.

read more on 10

Students attending the Spooktacular at the Multicultural Center on Oct. 25 spray paint their own flags.

Reflecting on landmark court case begun at ‘Berg

In wake of recent protests, members of “Muhlenberg Five” return to the campus that started it all

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

“LEPOCO, the familiar acronym for the Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern, has, over the past 10 years, become an organization known to thousands, loved by many and despised by more than a few,” the LEPOCO website proudly proclaims. This despisement is what led Nancy Tate, founder and coordinator of the group, and Don Miles, attorney and board member of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club, back to ‘Berg’s campus on Oct. 24.

As a part of the class Writing for the Media, Professor David Erdman asked Tate and Miles to speak on their involvement with “The Muhlenberg Five.” In 1976, Tate was one of five members of LEPOCO to be arrested outside of Seegers Union. Tate recalled, “We were arrested, handcuffed and taken in a paddywagon.”

The group was protesting then-FBI Director Clarence Kelly, who was on campus speaking at a public symposium. Following their arrest, Miles became the Five’s defense attorney — pro bono — and eventually argued and won the case in front of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Tate explained that the group was protesting Kelly “because of the pattern of FBI abuse and disregard for citizens’ rights” and that LEPOCO was “concerned about the hypocrisy of the FBI.” She and Miles both expanded on the political climate at the time — America was still living in the wake of Watergate, Nixon’s resignation and the end of the Vietnam War — and how many activist groups had wrongly been put on FBI watch lists without their knowledge.

Sharing a memory from law school in the shadow of Watergate, Miles said, “We had concluded that if the Supreme Court didn’t order the tapes, it meant the rule of law was over, and we wouldn’t continue our legal career because it meant that Nixon had become a dictator. That was in 1974.” He and Tate both admitted to having been considered “far left,” with Miles mentioning his own activist involvement as an undergraduate at Lehigh University. “We weren’t hippies, but we were radicals at the time.”

“I don’t think the truth rises to the top; the most provocative idea rises to the top.”

After speaking about the events of the arrest itself, most of which were chronicled in The Weekly at the time, Tate and Miles turned towards the case. Tate and her companions were charged with defiant trespass and found guilty at lower courts. Miles explained that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned these rulings; upholding the right to free speech in this instance outweighed the right to private property that Muhlenberg argued they had, and “at the age of 31, [Miles] had established new law in front of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.”

“It did not establish first amendment law; it established free speech law,” Miles said.

“The constitution sets a floor, not a ceiling,” explained Dr. Ross Dardani, who teaches Constitutional Law classes in the political science department. “[The state] can provide more protections than are stated, or you can restrict certain speech.”

When it comes to student speech codes, Dardani explained that most colleges, and especially public schools, restrict First Amendment rights. “When and if [college speech codes are] tested, they’re going to be deemed unconstitutional.” Still, Dardani admitted that with a private school such as Muhlenberg, the constitutionality of these codes are different.

Dardani said that the reason that most of these codes aren’t challenged is that the speech they limit is what most consider to be hate speech. “Most students recognize that there’s really not even a negligible reason for why hate speech is considered free speech.”

The concept of the marketplace of ideas that free speech represents hinges on the idea that from these competing viewpoints the truth will emerge, Dardani explained. “I don’t think [the marketplace of ideas] was ever fundamentally correct,” he added. “I don’t think the truth rises to the top; the most provocative idea rises to the top.”

“The goal should be ... making sure everyone has the ability to engage in a community and speech is important for that. You want to be cognizant of speech that automatically excludes people,” Dardani said. “If all the speech is designed to exclude, belittle, marginalize and subordinate, what benefit does that provide?”

The Muhlenberg Five case and the subsequent expansion of free speech is what protects Muhlenberg students during protests both on campus and throughout Pennsylvania. Though the debate over what constitutes free speech rages on, it is clear that the fight for expanded rights, begun at a small Allentown college, continues to have a lasting effect.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, October 21

Injured Employee/Visitor - 7:00 a.m.
Report of injured visitor in Seegers Union, MCEMS responded, individual transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Found Property - 7:14 p.m.
Report of found keys in Seegers Union, owner later claimed item.

Tuesday, October 22

Sick Student - 2:37 p.m.
Report of sick student in Center for the Arts. Student transported to hospital by AEMS.

Suspicious Person - 7:52 p.m.
Report of suspicious person on Chew Street, area checked with nothing found.

Wednesday, October 23

Found Property - 3:11 a.m.
Report of found purse in Seegers Union, owner later claimed item.

Traffic Accident - 1:56 p.m.
Report of minor accident causing damage to side view mirror in Faculty/Staff lot. Individuals exchanged information with no further incident.

Thursday, October 24

Burglary - 12:15 p.m.
Report of cash taken from students' wallets inside unlocked room in Prosser Hall. No reports of forced entry and no students were present at the time of the incident. Campus Safety is actively investigating report.

Noise Complaint - 6:46 p.m.
Report of noise complaint on N. 23rd Street. Individuals spoken to with no further incident.

Injured Employee- 8:31 p.m.
Report of injured employee in Brown Hall. MCEMS responded, individual refused further treatment.

Friday, October 25

Sick Employee/Visitor - 7:57 a.m.
Report of sick visitor in Seegers Union. MCEMS responded and AEMS transported them to hospital.

Alcohol Violation - 10:13 p.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Prosser Hall. Individuals spoken to and alcohol was disposed of.

Sunday, October 27

Sick Student - 3:44 p.m.
Report of sick student in Taylor Hall. Student transported to hospital from Campus Safety.

Unlawful Entry - 6:06 p.m.
Report of individuals seen entering building at 2252 Chew Street through unsecure area. Individuals identified and investigation to continue.

Injured Student - 11:39 p.m.
Report of injured student in East Hall. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

study hard.... party easy!
Check out the NEW student catering guide!
$1.00 per person menu selections
Seasonal Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Sugar Chips
Daily Breakfast Pastry
Baker's Choice of Pastry
Breakfast Snack Wrap
Egg & Cheese in a Flour Tortilla
House-Made Tortilla Chips
with Pico de Gallo or French Onion Dip
Macaroni & Cheese
Pasta in a House-Made Cheese Sauce
Chocolate Chip Cookies
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Power outages leave students in the dark

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Contributing Writer

Over the past few weeks, brief interruptions in the electrical power have been reported on and around campus. While these power outages have been very short, lasting no longer than a minute or so, students are still frustrated with the inconvenience caused by the disturbances.

The College has yet to formally address this issue; however, Jim Bolton, Director of Plant Operations, has commented that, "... these issues are all PPL [a local electric utility] related."

There is no apparent pattern as to when or where these mini-blackouts will occur; however, they have been consistent enough to temporarily impact students in their daily routines and obligations. Matthew Borrelli '23 explained how one of the short dim-outs affected his class.

"The actual power outage was very short, maybe 30 seconds at the most," said Borrelli. "I was in the basement of Trumbower when it happened during my computer science class. All of the computers shut down for about five minutes. It definitely did impact the class, because it stopped the teaching ... and paused everything."

Martenia Morris '21 specifically remembered an instance during the evening of Oct. 6 when he was in GQ.

"All the power went down for, like, five seconds, and then it went right back up."

Dalissa Duran '21 also shared her experiences with the power outages in her residence hall.

"I live in Robertson Hall, and I've been in my room every time the power goes out. The lights flicker, and it lasts more than a couple seconds for me, probably, like, a minute or so. It usually turns right back on, and nothing usually happens after that," explained Duran. "There have been so many [power outages] this semester, and the lights have been flickering a lot more too...I don't know why the school hasn't said anything."

Maybe even more inconvenient than the outages is the faulty WiFi that students, faculty and staff have had to work with around campus. People have complained that the WiFi has been especially slow at times in Seegers Union, the Center for the Arts and some residential buildings.

Jake Watzman '22 highlighted how this issue has hindered him from doing work on his computer.

"The WiFi has been really bad, I can attest to that. I live in Taylor Hall...and there are so many times when I have to disconnect from the WiFi, because it just will not work," said Watzman. "I just have to up my data. I don't really have time to get up and go somewhere else, because I might be in a hurry to get work done."

The outages do not seem to be isolated on Muhlenberg's campus, as surrounding neighborhoods have also dealt with the occasional power interruption.

"I live on Albright [Street], and the power outages happened everywhere," said Celeste Samson '22, explaining the 10-minute outage she experienced last week. "My neighbors, who are just people that live in the surrounding community, were also experiencing power outages; so, it might be an Allentown thing and not just something that's happening here on campus."

Edited by Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Integrating a new learning space

Entrepreneurship minor searches for a permanent home

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

By Laura Schwarz
News Editor

In January of 2018, the college unveiled the Muhlenberg Master Plan, an outline for renovations and other physical campus changes to be completed within ten years. Included in the plan are renovations of Prosser Hall and the lower level of Seegers Union, the building of a new residential hall and the creation of a new academic building called the "Integrative Learning Academic Building" (IL Building).

"While the current conditions are less than ideal for what I would like to see for our program, we make do with what we have."

While this new academic building has been in talks for a few years, no new information about when the building will start construction has been released from the administration.

"The campus Master Plan calls for a new academic building to house the Media & Communication department, the Art department, the Film Studies program and the Innovation and Entrepreneurship minor," explained President Kathy Harring. "The building will have flexible use classrooms, collaborative work space, a maker space and a performance space."

Currently the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Minor program is housed in the Hillside House, a former fraternity house leased to the college by Phi Kappa Tau [PKT], a fraternity that will be returning to campus next semester.

"We are currently in temporary housing that is rented from PKT," said Rita Chersterton, Director of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship program. "From what I understand, we will continue to occupy this building until the Spring of 2021. We are still working on where our program will move at that point, but I am in discussions with administration to ensure that the makerspace and the entire program will continue to have a designated space on campus that serves the needs of our students. As for the IL building, I do not know the status of the building, but I do know that in its current incarnation, the entrepreneurship program is intended to move to the building when it opens."

Chesterton explained how subpar conditions inside the Hillside House haven't marred the spirits of students in the program.

"While the current conditions are less than ideal for what I would like to see for our program, we make do with what we have," said Chesterton. "As entrepreneurs, we are used to being scrappy and making something great out of few resources. We have been lucky to have some generous support from alumni and continue to reach out to any alumni who would like to help see our program grow."

"We are really excited about the opportunities the building will have to support integrative learning and interdisciplinary scholarship."

While it is still unclear what the IL Building's construction status is, Harring seems enthusiastic that the academic building will be a beneficial addition to campus.

"We are really excited about the opportunities the building will have to support integrative learning and interdisciplinary scholarship," said Harring.

Tracing the routes of history

Students travel to Ellis Island with Center for Ethics

By Haley Hnatuk
Contributing Writer

The rain poured down in torrents that beat against my back. My freezing hands desperately grasped my hood, trying in vain to keep my hair dry, allowing a deluge of water to stream down the sleeves of my well-seasoned raincoat and pool at the elbows of my sweater underneath. The echoes of a pounding pack of Muhlenberg students' feet echoed across the dock as we all raced towards the boat. It was a ferry that promised to take us to an island obscured from our vision, enveloped by the same grey, cloudy downpour that enveloped us all: Ellis Island.

Going to Ellis Island has been a dream of mine since second grade.

I was given the opportunity to attend this trip because it was a part of this year's Center for Ethics series: *Borders, Nationalisms, Identities: The Ethics of Global Citizenship.* This is a program that implores the campus community to examine the moment that we currently reside in, in which national borders are concurrently being reinforced and permeated, and asks us to question how that has affected each of our unique understandings of citizenship, identity and national culture.

Going to Ellis Island has been a dream of mine since second grade. After going to colonial Williamsburg the previous summer, I started to gain an interest in American history, which mainly manifested in me reading the *My America* books over and over. Consequently, I spent a solid month toting around and rereading *My America: Home At Last, Sofia's Ellis Island Diary*, but no matter how many times I asked my parents, a trip to Ellis Island continued to elude me. So, it remained on the first page of my bucket list for a decade.

Brooke Weber / The Muhlenberg Weekly

From left: Haley Hnatuk '20, Gwen Wilkie '20 and Shayna Kronisch '20 stand in front of the entrance to Ellis Island.

My desire to go to Ellis Island was further compounded by my study abroad experience in Ireland. Ireland is a place that so many tourists travel to to learn more about their ancestral roots, and by being there, I acquired an acute yearning to go to a place where my family had once stood, which is something I had never experienced before. Every single one of my great and/or great-great grandparents immigrated through Ellis Island at the ages of 17 to 23, and I, being a 21-year-old college senior, was finally given the chance to get a glimpse into the world that they saw upon their arrival. So, naturally, I said yes.

This answer is what landed me soaking wet and shivering, but also smiling, on the first floor of our ferry, the Miss Liberty, slowly watching Ellis Island materialize. According to Peter, my group's 11 o'clock guided tour ranger, during Ellis Island's 62 years of operation, about 12 million immigrants were admitted into the United States. As the outline of the island mystically solidified before my eyes, I was awestruck, momentarily flung back in time to see through the eyes of my ancestors, immigrants about to land on the United States for the first time.

Once we arrived on land, and after electing to take a guided tour which recounted the story of Peter's own grandparents' immigration, my group was left to our own devices in the echoing chamber of the Great Hall with its imposing windows and its ostentatious chandeliers. With most of its fixtures remaining the same for the last century, the room is a picture of elegance and longevity and finally gave me the ability to see a slice of the world that my ancestors had seen. As Brooke Weber '20, Shayna Kronisch '20 and I traversed through the registry room, the courtroom and up the stairs into one of the male dormitories, we were also given the ability to see the ephemera of the other people that had passed through at the time. This helped me create a more defined picture of each of them in my mind by illuminating pieces of who they were and what was important to them, allowing each of them to become more than just nameless migrating people with a home and a destination.

As the outline of the island mystically solidified before my eyes, I was awestruck, momentarily flung back in time to see through the eyes of my ancestors, immigrants about to land on the United States for the first time.

Thankfully, when we left Ellis Island at 2:30, the rain had died down, and we were able to clearly see The Statue of Liberty standing faithfully ahead of us. I've seen her many times in the distance on my drive to Rhode Island to see my extended family, but seeing her up close is truly a beautiful experience. After circumnavigating the base of her pedestal and taking a sufficient number of selfies, we headed to the Statue of Liberty Museum, which opened in May 2019. The museum houses not only a timeline of the monument's construction, but also various interactive exhibits that showcase the Statue of Liberty as a global symbol of freedom and hope. We ended our time on the island on the roof of the museum looking out at Lady Liberty and the New York City Skyline, all of us engulfed in the golden-hour sun.

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."

- Aldous Huxley

It's the "Last Midnight."

Don't miss your chance to see *Into the Woods*.

Photo Courtesy of Ken Ek

The cast of *Into the Woods* performs a number from the show.

By Danny Milkis
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Department of Theatre and Dance premiered its newest mainstage production, the beloved Stephen Sondheim musical *Into the Woods*, in the Empie Theatre this past weekend. The incredible amount of hard work and dedication shown by members of the cast and crew was a testament to the artists' passion for creating stories that matter, and resulted in Muhlenberg community members coming together to weave a brilliant, fantastical tale.

The musical follows the parallel stories of Grimm fairytale characters such as Cinderella, a Baker and his Wife, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack from *Jack and the Beanstalk*. After a witch shows the characters the ingredients necessary to remove a curse of infidelity that has been plaguing them, the Baker and his Wife enter a deep, dark forest and encounter the other characters in a wild hunt for their future.

"This show took everything I knew and threw a totally new spin on it."

The show was directed by Theatre & Dance professor Beth Schachter, who placed emphasis on the contemporary magic behind her vision, which resulted in a modern twist on a heartfelt classic. "This production has the benefit of brilliant designs and amazing execution by all those staff and students who created the set, lights, costumes and sound components of the project," says Schachter. "Gertjan Houben and Bryce Cutler, the lighting and set designers in particular, collaborated to envision a physical world in which the actors can actually run from scene to scene generating great urgency and occasionally terrific comedy in this show of quests, surprise encounters and beautiful images of characters grief-stricken with losses."

The actors in this show delivered a melting pot with their performances, with each actor providing an honest, comedic and serious approach to their individual character. Extraordinarily talented students created an atmosphere of dynamic realism within this fairytale world, and used these three principles associated with the behaviors of real-life people to give the well-known fairytale characters starkly human qualities.

One of the most unique and interesting additions to the production was its changing digital background. The image of a dark forest would very subtly change between scenes in order to signify the

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characters existing in different parts of the forest at different times of day. As with the rest of the show's moving parts, the transitions between scenes were unbelievably seamless and seemed painstakingly well-thought-out, with this aspect taking that to a whole new level.

Since there were far fewer traditional blackouts than most classic stage productions tend to have, the scenes had to change very quickly as more characters darted in and out. As the audience's eyes were drawn to the commotion of the actors, the opportune moment would arise and the scene would brilliantly and ever-so-slightly change so that the atmosphere reflected the new mood of the scene about to take place. For example, the forest was significantly more ominous in appearance while the wolf was about to confront Little Red Riding Hood than when Jack and the Baker were pictured in conversation with no threat in sight, which is ultimately a key factor in making the show come together so fluidly, and something that may not even occur to some audience members.

Schachter goes on to explain that even beyond the portions of the show that are visible, there is an intricate clockwork of theatrical mechanisms in play to bring Sondheim's dark fairytale world to life. "I would like to add that the tremendous work going on — invisibly — backstage, upstairs with the make-up and wig and costume folks, as well as all those making the complex sound balance and cues work with our conductor, Ed Bara, and the orchestra, and the brilliant Stage Managing team are all indispensable to making this magical piece of theatre happen," said Schachter.

"It's pretty hard for folks who have not worked on a live piece of theatre to understand just how many hours and how much energy it takes to create what appears to be a seamless event unfolding for audiences — and I want everyone who enjoys the show to know there is a huge community of people bringing them the wonderful shared moments that are live performance," she continued.

In speaking to those involved in the backstage workings of the production, it became clear that the experience gained from taking part in this hauntingly beautiful project left a lasting impression on students, whether veterans or newbies to the stage crew scene. Brandon Horyczun '23, who operated one of the moving set pieces during the show, said, "Although it was my first time in stage crew for a show, it was genuinely a lot of fun, and I learned so many valuable lessons through the experience that I never would have picked up otherwise...Once you take on a massive project like *Into the Woods*, it makes you feel like you're part of something really special."

"Honestly, I left the theatre thinking, and that's the best kind of show, in my opinion: when you're still engaged with the subject matter even once you've left the auditorium."

Several audience members, including Zach Montenegro '23, agreed with this notion of Schachter's *Into the Woods* leaving a lasting impact on them. "*Into the Woods* — it's something that so many theatre folks grew up with, and I always have an impression of what it will be like based on what I've seen in the past ... but this show took everything I knew and threw a totally new spin on it. Honestly, I left the theatre thinking, and that's the best kind of show, in my opinion: when you're still engaged with the subject matter even once you've left the auditorium," said Montenegro.

All in all, *Into the Woods* at Muhlenberg is unique and thought-provoking, and ultimately something to definitely try to see this coming weekend. "My take on this classic story?" says Schachter, "It's been such a great adventure for our entire company to explore how very contemporary and complex these character relationships are — and the fantastic combination of gorgeous songs, slapstick humor and truly sad moments keeps on revealing new meaning as audiences respond."

This production really speaks to a common theme emerging within the Muhlenberg Theatre and Dance department: creating work that inspires and takes the experience of putting on a staged production to the next level and, furthermore, using theatre as a module to inspire critical thinking and giving artistic passion a context based in societal modernity.

You still have opportunities to become enchanted with this production, as the show's run ends Sunday, Nov. 3.

Spooktacular: A celebration of pride

By Jenny Silber
Contributing Writer

On Friday Oct. 28, the Multicultural Center hosted the "QTPOC [Queer and Trans People of Color], MTAC [Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition] and S.Qu.Ad [Students for Queer Advocacy] Spooktacular," an event celebrating LGBTQ pride and raising money for Point of Pride. Point of Pride is a fundraiser to let people at Muhlenberg and the surrounding community have access to free binders and chest-affirming shapewear.

Raising awareness for the fundraiser and educating people on safe binding and tucking was a vital aspect of the event for one of the main organizers, Asherde Gill '20. Gill stresses the importance of everyone being aware of safe binding and tucking methods, even if they personally are not affected. "There isn't a lot of conversation around safe binding methods and teaching people the right ways to bind and the right materials they should be using," said Gill. "I wanted anyone to be involved because you never know who you know ... is trans or who might be trans in your life."

"We take the language, we take the jokes, we take the memes, but we don't actually learn about the culture that goes beyond RuPaul."

Besides a presentation on safe binding and tucking, there were various panels and activities throughout the three-hour celebration. The event started with spray painting flags, which was then followed by a drag performance by local drag queen Elektra Fearce St. James. While part of the goal of the event was to educate, it was clear this was also a space designed to make everyone feel at home and celebrate being themselves. Gill says this was the main point of the event.

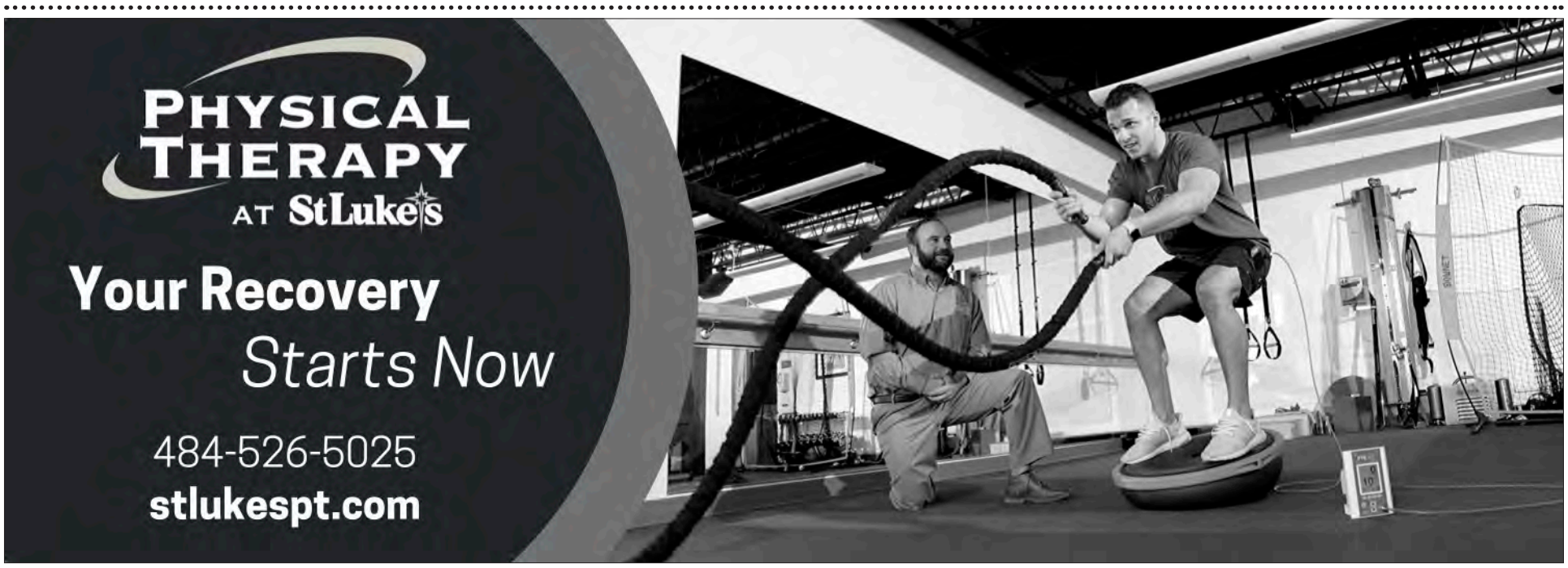
"I think that it's important for us as a community to celebrate LGBT lives together," Gill said. "I feel like there's always pride in the city and pride in New York and pride in Allentown, but I don't think we've ever celebrated as a group on campus. I was looking for ways to bring LGBT people and queer people on campus together in a meaningful way where we could have fun but also learn some things."

The drag performance was paired with a History of Drag panel hosted by Elektra. The panel covered many topics, from Elektra's own experiences with drag and tips on how to become a drag queen to advice and her favorite Beyoncé song. Having the panel was another aspect of the day that was vital for Gill, who remarked, "I feel like a lot of times we consume drag performance mainly because of RuPaul, but we don't actually think about the history and the people and the lives that go behind it. We take the language, we take the jokes, we take the memes, but we don't actually learn about the culture that goes beyond RuPaul."

While this was just one event at the Multicultural Center, one can recognize the strong sense of community upon first walking through the building's door. Chrissy Nagrowski '22 encourages everyone to try going to at least one event at the Multicultural Center.

"They have such an amazing staff. It's always nice to meet other people that share similar identities to you," said Nagrowski. "Go and have a good time; there's always somebody in there, and the people who run it are always willing to have a conversation with you ... if you want to get more involved and need help finding affinity groups."

The Multicultural Center hosts events all year long, but their next pride event will most likely take place in the spring. If you would like to donate to Point of Pride, do so at https://pointofpride.org/muhlenberg/.



Radio Riff-Off: The battle for Silvertone Studios

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Oct. 26, WMUH's first annual Radio Riff-Off event was held in the Red Door Cafe. With over 170 people in attendance, the show was held from 7:30-10:30. The night included performances from on-campus a capella groups the Acafellas and Chaimonics, Muhlenberg student performers and one performer from the greater Lehigh Valley community, with each performer having the chance of winning a $500-value recording session at Silvertone Studios. Upon entering, attendees were given red raffle tickets, which could be used to vote for their fan favorite performance throughout the night.

Expression through art can bring people together and create a smaller community within a larger campus community.

The event was sponsored by WMUH, the college's radio station. WMUH's business manager, Michelle Rajan '21, and secretary, Rebecca Cooperstein '20, were instrumental in the success of the event as co-directors. Last semester, Rajan felt inspired to bring local musicians and the music industry together, and she did so successfully. After discussing her idea with WMUH General Manager Paul Krempasky, she teamed up with Cooperstein, who had been interested in bringing a "Battle of the Bands" event to campus. Soon after, the two worked together to plan an opportunity for local performers to showcase their talents in a more competitive setting. The pair promoted their ideas through airing promos on WMUH, putting up posters around the school and using social media to spread awareness.

"We tried to promote anywhere that we were having open auditions for anyone on or off campus, but that we weren't exclusive to bands," said Rajan. "We wanted instrumentalists, singer-songwriters, anyone considered a musician."

Rajan and Cooperstein served as emcees at the event and introduced all of the performances. The performers competing for the prize included Muhlenberg students Angelina Carrano '23, Michael Colasurdo '23, Zach Delecce '20, Cameryn Guetta '23, Elle Holzhauer '23, Michael Sova '20, Jack Van Burik '21 and Eddie Sanchez, a local artist. During the event, free food and drinks were provided for students. Additionally, WMUH had merchandise available for purchase.

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Above: Ben Goldberg '20 and Brandt Sunter '20 pose as they work the WMUH Radio Riff-Off on Saturday, Oct. 26.
Below: Fan favorite and second-place winner Zach Deleece '20 sings and plays guitar.

The intimacy of the Red Doors provided the perfect setting for the show and attracted a large and diverse crowd. Although the event was centered around music and the arts, there were plenty of people in attendance who wanted to go and watch the performances regardless of their personal interests. "I realized then that our goal was definitely to connect musicians to opportunities but also to bridge the gaps between our Muhlenberg students and bring anyone and everyone together," Rajan added. "The WMUH team did an amazing job!"

Creating an open platform for musicians to come together and share their art has been an important goal of many students. "I just want everyone to feel comfortable to be themselves," first-year student and performer Holzhauer emphasized. "I chose to perform 'I Want to Break Free' because it not only resonates with my need to break away from the norm and discover my inner artist, but also because so many people want to figure out who they are, which can be very difficult in this day and age due to the fact that society glorifies some things and looks down upon others." Expression through art can bring people together and create a smaller community within a larger campus community.

The welcoming atmosphere of the audience paired with an open, casual ambience made the event a fun night for all who attended. Third place recipient Carrano, who sang "Killing Me Softly" by Zhavia Ward, describes the event as having "a great vibe and crowd [with] out of this world talent."

After much deliberation from the judges, Sova won the first-place prize of the $500-value recording session and was awarded WMUH Artist of the Year at the end of the night. Delecce, also the winner of the fan favorite award, was awarded second place, with Carrano in third. Silvertone Studios also offered all six Muhlenberg acapella groups free recording sessions. Congratulations to all of the performers who took part in this year's Radio Riff-Off!

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Ek hi raasta

By Michelle Rajan
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg College mein
ek hi raasta hai
jahaan bade log aur chhoti saans
dheere dheere
haule haule
pehli mulakat ka pata lagaein, har din
Vahi log
aur vahi nazrein
Aankhein mile
aur humme anjaana anjaani ke barre mein
pata chale

Kya main aapko vahaan dekh sakti hoon?
Hum ne kab alvida kaha?

Iss sadak par
mere dost ne mujhse ek shayari maangi
taaki main apni bhasha bol sakoon
Lekin yeh sab meri bhasha nahin hain
Main malayali hoon
Njan oru malayali aane

Main kya karoon?
Kya main ne apna raasta kho toh nahin diya?

Main bhaag rahi hoon
Un aankhon mein ek pagli jhalak rahi hai
Yeh ladki deewani hai
Woh kaun hai?

Mere jeebh mein do hindustani gaane hain
Iska matlab hai
ki main bahut se gaane ga sakti hoon

Mujhe raaste par milo
apni badalte dil ke saath
Kyonki hamare aankhein vahin hain

Baar baar dekho
Dheere dheere
Haule haule
Aur humne apne saathi ke baare mein
pata chalega

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Edited by Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Editorial

Student newspapers bring life to the news desert

In the past few years, society has been collectively hiking through a so-called news desert. Within this desert, we run into many forms of dangerous territory, including cacti poking us with painful fake news and rattlesnakes hissing clickbait in our ears.

The catalyst of this news desert was the closing or merging of over 2,000 newspapers across the country. These pockets of desert land leave the community famished and quenching for local news coverage.

Through this seemingly never-ending drought, people wait tirelessly for relevant and accurate news stories to pour down from the sky.

But the drought doesn't last forever, thanks to student journalism.

In Ann Arbor, Michigan, the community has been relying on the University of Michigan's paper, The Michigan Daily, for nearly a decade now, according to a recent story from The New York Times. Over 300 student staff members cover news for both the school and the Ann Arbor community and deliver their paper five times a week to over 100 locations on and off campus; they also publish stories online and currently have four podcasts.

While students at the University of Michigan continue to read stories pertaining to them, including one about the university stopping free STD testing, the Ann Arbor community is informed on community issues like cuts to the county's mental health budget.

As student journalists in Ann Arbor balance their full course loads of schoolwork, other extracurriculars and report news for the paper, there is still an overwhelming sense that student journalists should not be taken seriously, despite the fact that they cover pertinent issues and oftentimes bringing about real, serious change.

A high school paper in Pittsburg, Kansas forced the resignation of the principal due to discrepancies in her resume.

Another high school paper in Burlington, Vermont won a censorship battle against their principal.

The Arizona State University paper broke the news about the State Department's special envoy for Ukraine resigning.

Right here at Muhlenberg, an Op/Ed piece published in The Weekly about the lack of progress for gender neutral bathrooms led to a complete redesign of the campus map to include where these gender neutral bathrooms are located.

Additionally, The Weekly has covered the closing of local businesses like Cafe Frais, a Statewide Town Hall on Redistricting, a more recent Town Hall by Rep. Susan Wild and a visit from the Lieutenant Governor discussing the legalization of marijuana. Each of these stories are not only beneficial to Muhlenberg students, but are also engaging for Allentown residents.

In each of these cases, student journalists are tackling real issues, and these real issues are bringing life back to the desert, or introducing life there that has never been seen before. There is power in student journalism, and it is about time that we are given the credit we deserve for contributing to the community beyond the boundaries of campus.

Meeting your family

By Val Weisler
Staff Writer

I categorize moments in my life by what type of punctuation I would title them with. Periods are for the things I know: the routine and expected. Exclamation points are for the big ones, good and bad. Question marks hang above the times I don't know what will happen next.

I used to live a life of periods. It was not a bad one — sentences filled with joy came before most of them. Seven seats were all we needed for Thanksgiving dinner. Once a month or so, my brothers and I would spend the weekend in Long Island with my grandparents from my dad's side, my Poppa teaching us how to take photos of flowers and my Grandma waking us up early for IHOP. My mom was adopted — raised in Brooklyn, New York, by an incredible woman named Sylvia, my Nana, who passed away when I was a baby. Sundays were always for Brooklyn, where my mom's Ukrainian cousins would feed me and my brothers, Alex and Simon, until we couldn't move anymore. An unpredictable exclamation point added a new layer to my life when my mom sat me and my brothers down when I was 8 years old and told us that she had found her birth mother, Betty. She took a trip to meet her, and come Thanksgiving 2006, we added an eighth seat to the table. I was immediately entranced by Betty, an older, queer woman from Alaska who loves to quilt and makes the same jokes I would as an 8-year-old.

There's this word in Judaism called *dayenu*, and it translates to "it would have been enough." Getting to add Betty to my life would have been enough. But my mom kept researching, sipping her always-full cup of tea at the kitchen table as she tried to figure out a family tree she never knew she would have the roots of. As the years went on, the line "I found a new cousin today!" became normal. And *dayenu!* that would have been enough, but I've met my cousin Mela and her sister Shondra in California and spent Thanksgiving in Alaska with my cousin Denise and her family. *Dayenu, dayenu, dayenu!* When my parents separated and my world became rocky, "home" was a tough word to point at my house and say "there's mine!," but our story kept growing. Meeting one cousin always led to the introduction to another. My mom and I attended Mela's wedding last fall with Betty and her wife, Karen. We met my cousin Paige, her parents and two sons in Texas when I was in their town for a conference. I collected these exclamation points and kept them in my pocket, holding tightly to the unexpected.

In April of this year, I got a Facebook invite to join a group chat of 25 people, including my mother, Betty, my brothers, Denise, Mela and Paige. A cousin I had never met before introduced herself and said that they'd all been talking, and they want to meet us! Fast forward to fall break, after hundreds of chats and dozens of payments to a beach house. Suspense greeted me with each stair I stepped on as I made my way up to the house, holding my mom's hand. Question marks flooded my mind. But the dramatic piano ballad in my head was drowned by an excited "COUSINS!" as we appeared on the porch with our cousin Densie. Deja vu doesn't do it justice, but these people immediately felt familiar. "I'm so glad you're ours," said Joanie, the oldest cousin, before pulling me inside for chicken and dumplings.

Have you ever woken up and immediately been greeted by 13 Southern women telling you how much they love you? I highly recommend it. For four days, they taught us family recipes, swapped stories and stayed up until 2 a.m., using stolen time in an attempt to make up for the years we missed. I couldn't believe that some people just have this; they're just born with family traditions and memories and dinners. When we left, we all pinky-promised that we'd have a longer and bigger reunion this summer. This is one side of my mom's story — and both are beautiful. I consider the pelmeni and borscht that my Brooklyn cousins make for us my family recipes, too. The stories of Nana inspire me to be courageous and confident. From every angle, adoption is the biggest thing that's in my blood; I can point at Brooklyn and Allentown and Texas and Alaska and Portland and call them home.

Have you ever woken up and immediately been greeted by 13 Southern women telling you how much they love you? I highly recommend it.

Dayenu! It would have been more than enough ... but I am writing this from my brother Alex's kitchen table in Ohio. It's 2 a.m. My mom and I drove seven hours today because last night, Oct. 25, my brother and his husband (also Alex!) adopted a newborn baby boy, their son, Ezra Aviv. He will grow up in a home where lost and found are for missing toys and clothes, not parts of himself. Last month, I didn't know I'd be packing a suitcase to meet my nephew, but the best moments in that photo album of my brain are the question marks that have turned into exclamation points and the exclamation points that have turned into periods, because they are solid layers of who I am and who I can call family. There is no question mark or period or exclamation point over Ezra's story being woven into all of ours. Becoming an aunt has added a new form of punctuation to my toolbox; Ezra has an em dash (—). I cannot predict the unknown or routine or wonderment of his life, and that's pretty incredible. His story — just beginning, sacred, ours, his, forever.

Opening up to discomfort
My first week at Muhlenberg

By Mustafa Hall
Contributing Writer

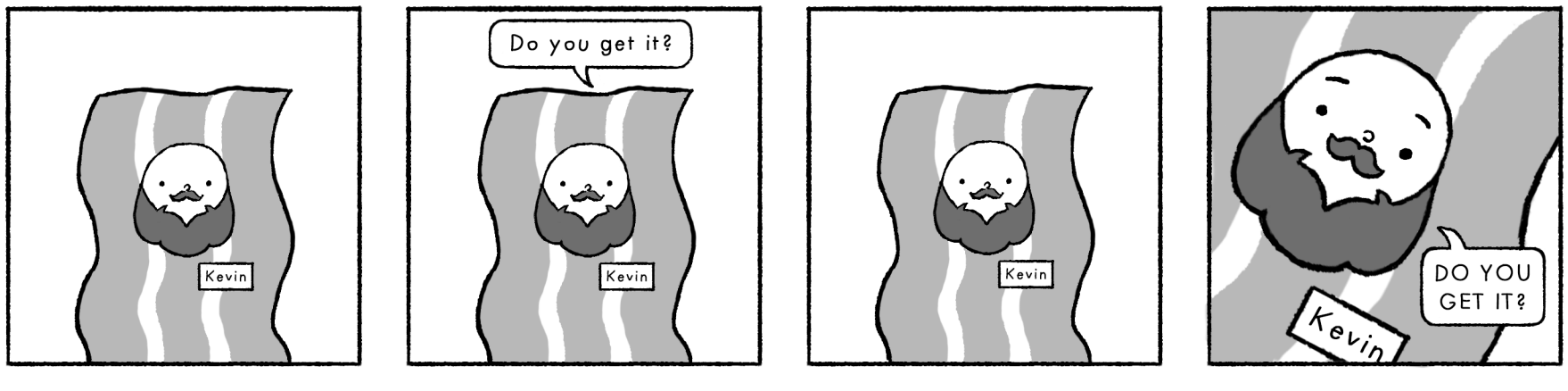
Coming from Brooklyn, New York, my transition to Muhlenberg was far from easy. All my life, I was surrounded by bodies of color that could easily relate to my experiences without me even having to say a word. The very color of our skin acted as storybooks, highlighting our struggles, pains and beautiful narratives that traced back centuries. At Muhlenberg, this common narrative that I so deeply depended on for comfort was virtually non-existent, forcing my body into one of the hardest transitions in my life.

I had so many preconceived notions when I arrived to this small liberal arts college: I automatically assumed that my blackness would be under attack. I assumed that defending my blackness would be a mundane practice that I would be forced to partake in like some kind of twisted game. I assumed that the wall that already existed between me and the rest of the world for being a gay, black man would have to thicken two-fold to protect me from white bodies that looked absolutely nothing like me. Ultimately, I prepared my mind for war and I was ready to defend who I was to the death. Now, this isn't the fault of Muhlenberg, but of society as a whole. In reality, we live in a world dominated by whiteness; whiteness has become the default in many conversations and realms and has become an idealization perpetuated by racism, colorism and any and all forms of prejudice that target communities of color. In the eyes of many communities of color, whiteness is a threat: to our visibility and to our truth and, most jarringly, to our spirits.

My first week here, I felt swallowed. I felt swallowed by the white bodies that my mind and body weren't used to. I was constantly searching for things of familiarity, which, in my eyes, were students of color. That's where the Emerging Leaders program truly helped. This program was designed specifically for students of color in order to help their transition into a very white campus as a minority group a little easier. For four days, I was surrounded by people who mirrored my experiences and who understood me on a molecular level, and that was a deep sense of elation that I'll never forget. Within this program, I found the sense of familiarity that I was so desperately searching for just to feel a sense of ease. Entering Muhlenberg, I built a fortress around my body, ready to defend it from whiteness. To my surprise, this program not only destroyed my fortress, but replaced it with openness. This was done by constantly being reminded of my worth and that I truly do belong here, even if I look different from the majority. I was allowed the space to reflect within myself and my narrative and harmonize my pain with those around me. This unified us not just on a surface level, but on a level of racial intertwining. This four-day pre-orientation program allowed me to feel a sense of normalcy in a realm of confusion and distrust. My guard was lowered and my heart was opened: opened to discomfort and to the idea that I must learn to become comfortable with discomfort.

Programs like the Emerging Leaders are so vital and are particularly needed in schools where white bodies are the majority and bodies of color are the few. While this program is far from perfect, programs like these allow for spaces where scared bodies of color can feel nurtured and acknowledged not just for their experiences but also for their discomfort in moving in a world of habitual injustice and inequity.

THE BACON NUMBER
By Nicolas Calá



Cross country runs with momentum

Following their success at the Gettysburg Invitational, the Mules are eager for more at C.C. Championships

By Jordan Fisch
Contributing Writer

Next week, Muhlenberg cross country has one of their most important meets in the Centennial Conference Championships. They come into this event having done well in their last meet at the Gettysburg Invitational on Oct. 19. Two runners in particular, one from the men's team and one from the women's team, come in with lots of momentum.

"I feel very excited that our training is all coming together, as we have been planning to start peaking late in the season."

Jason Richwall '20 placed first out of 236 runners at the invitational and as a result received Centennial Conference Runner of the Week. This would be his first career first-place finish, which he ran 56 seconds faster than he did the last time he ran at Gettysburg. The second-place finisher, a Division I runner, would follow up Richwall at the finish line 6.1 seconds later. The senior completed the 8K in just 25:48.7 to win a second individual title for the Mules at the Gettysburg Invitational in their last three trips. His previous best finish at a large invitational was sixth place at DeSales last year. For Richwall, being honored for his accomplishment is truly special as well as motivation. "Receiving my first Centennial Conference Runner of the Week was a true honor," said Richwall. "I can't wait for the opportunity to compete against some of the best runners in D3 both next week and at regionals," he continued. Richwall is going into the Championships with lots of confidence that will surely trickle down to the rest of the team.

Alongside Richwall's achievement was Abby Dalton '22's fourth place finish in a field of 259 runners. Clocking in at 23:05.7, this marked Dalton's second top-five finish in a row and the fifth of her career as she looks to improve upon this performance at the Championships. Dalton is eager, as she moves onto the next challenge, to take another step forward. "Last week was the first time I raced on that course, so I am hoping to improve my time," Dalton commented.

Even better for the Mules is that the Championships will take place at Gettysburg, a place that will certainly be familiar to the team. "I feel very excited that our training is all coming together, as we have been planning to start peaking late in the season," said Richwall. "Being able to get my first win on the Gettysburg course, where conferences will be, is huge to not only know the course, but know how to race on it," he added.

The team is ready to go and wants to show what they are capable of. "We are looking forward to competing at the Conference Championships. We all love the course because it is scenic and fast, and, as always, this meet is another chance to push ourselves against the competition," said Dalton.

This will be their toughest test of the season so far, but the Mules are determined and focused to get similar results to those from their last meet. "Conferences will be the first time we race against a bunch of our rival teams," said Richwall. "Having had the opportunity to race at Gettysburg last week, we feel like we are ready to compete on the course," he explained. The team is coming into the meet with a positive mindset.

With the training the teams have done and the experience they have gained this season, cross-country has the opportunity to get some great results from the C.C. Championships. "One big focus for us is training. With our long season going from August to November, [training] has been to gear our fitness to peak for the end of the season," Richwall said. "Conferences will be our first time seeing some really good teams, and we can't wait to compete; then, we plan to be at our best for regionals two weeks later. Having raced at both Gettysburg and Lehigh, we also feel like our familiarity with these courses will help us to succeed at these important meets," Richwall said.

Dalton is going in with that same attitude. "We've been preparing for the end of the season by focusing on how our workouts will improve our performances in the race, as well as visualizing the course beforehand," said Dalton.

The Mules are primed for success next week, and with great athletes like Richwall and Dalton leading the drive, they are sure to see nothing but victory at the C.C. Championships on Nov. 2.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Jason Richwall '20 finished first out of 236 runners at the Gettysburg Invitational on Oct. 19.

from **Football** page 12

for the longest pass in Muhlenberg football history.

Quarterback Michael Hnatkowsky '21 completed 18 throws, throwing 273 yards and three touchdowns.

While his offense performance was top notch, Hnatkowsky credits his defense for their contributions.

"Our defense was lights out, giving us great field position, and we were able to hit on a few big plays early, then sustain drives when we needed to. In every game there are adjustments; yesterday was just finding what plays we like in both the run and pass game and [executing] them." stated Hnatkowsky.

Practicing is something that Hnatkowsky credits towards the team's win. "This week's area of focus was to try and play a complete football game for 60 minutes. That has been our focus all year, and yesterday we were able to accomplish this goal," Hnatkowsky said.

Going into Saturday's game against the Green Terror, the team knew that they needed to be prepared, especially when getting ready to play a tough defensive line.

Scoring one of the Mules' touchdowns, wide receiver Daniel understood that McDaniel was a game they would need to fight to win.

"We knew McDaniel had a tough defense, so heading into the game, we wanted to match that toughness, and I think we did a good job with that. We had guys flying around on defense and the offense was clicking. Like every week, the coaching staff just wanted us to focus on doing our job instead of worrying about the opponent. That is a theme for us week in and week out, which is why we have been so successful," said Daniel.

"We knew McDaniel had a tough defense, so heading into the game we wanted to match that toughness, and I think we did a good job with that."

Offensive guard Samuel Rothstein '21 agrees, commending the team's practices as a main part of their continued success.

"The main focus for the week leading up to McDaniel was to play this game as intensely as we have every other game so far this season," Rothstein said. "Our mindset going into the game was that this is the only one that matters because it is the next. This keeps the team grounded and focused on what is immediately ahead. There wasn't a specific part of the game that we honed in on; rather, we practice every week to improve all aspects of our game: offense, defense and special teams," he added.

While this game resulted in many milestones and brought a huge victory for the squad, the result was made possible by a contribution from everybody on the team.

"I think one of the best parts of the game was that so many guys were able to get playing time," Rothstein noted. "Three quarterbacks played, four different running backs, over 10 offensive lineman and the list goes on. Having guys get game time who typically don't is great because it prepares them for later in the season and their careers. It is also incredibly rewarding to see hard work pay off, like watching freshman quarterback Ethan Brader throw his first college touchdown," he continued.

The men look to play a tough game against Johns Hopkins at the Scotty Wood Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 p.m.

Getting ready for this game, Rothstein is confident in the players.

"Being comfortable and confident in your skills allows you to be able to be more aggressive and make big plays, like pancaking defensive players," said Rothstein. "All in all, I am incredibly proud of our team's performance and look forward to improving even more for our game Nov. 2 at home against Johns Hopkins University."

McDammit: Muhlenberg falls to McDaniel in OT

Women's soccer team plays a close game and comes up just short

By Jason Grant
Asst. Sports Editor

This past Saturday, Oct. 26, the Lady Mules traveled to Westminster, Maryland for perhaps their most crucial game of the season so far. Awaiting them there was Centennial Conference foe McDaniel, and playoff implications were on the line. The squad was in the middle of the toughest stretch of their season, having to play seven straight conference games in a span of three weeks to finish the regular season. This was their fifth game in that stretch, and the Lady Mules went a respectable 2-1-1 in the four games prior.

"There is something to defending our home turf that inspires hard work on the field."

Muhlenberg entered the game in the middle of the pack in the Centennial Conference standings, trailing Swarthmore for the final playoff spot. They also trailed McDaniel by a whopping seven points in the standings, and needed the three points that a win would provide to close the gap. McDaniel, meanwhile, is in the midst of a stellar season, coming into the game at 12-4 overall and 5-3 in conference play.

The contest was airtight throughout, with both defenses suffocating the offensive attack on either side. It looked as if the first half would be scoreless until McDaniel's Kathryn Dixon netted a goal in the 41st minute to give them a 1-0 edge at halftime.

The Lady Mules responded almost immediately after the half with a goal of their own. Cece Peden '22 found the back of the net to even up the score. It was her fourth goal of the season.

Despite trailing in most statistical categories, such as shots, where McDaniel led by a wide margin of 22-6, Muhlenberg's defense managed to keep it close and send the game to overtime with a chance to save their postseason hopes.

Those hopes were quickly dashed in the 95th minute as McDaniel scored the go-ahead goal. The score held up the rest of overtime and McDaniel squeezed out a 2-1 victory. Peden, who scored the only goal for the Lady Mules on Saturday, explained that her squad got off to a slow start. "We did not perform up to the level we are capable of in the first half, which led us into half time with a one-goal deficit," Peden said.

Having such an important game being played on the road was not ideal for the Lady Mules, as they have a lackluster 2-4-0 record on the road thus far. Conversely, they are undefeated on Varsity Field, their home turf, and have posted a 5-0-2 record there. Peden says the Lady Mules are simply protecting their home base.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Cece Peden '22 scored the only goal for Muhlenberg in Saturday's match.

"We do not let other teams have control of the game on our home field," said Peden. "There is something to defending our home turf that inspires hard work on the field."

The team will have two more chances to finish out the season strong, playing their final matches against Swarthmore and Washington College. While their playoff chances are now gone, Peden is adamant that there is still a lot to play for. "We are here to win out the remainder of our games to prove to ourselves and the conference that we are capable of fighting toe-to-toe with every team we face," said Peden.

This game was the fourth time the Lady Mules lost by one goal this season, something Peden is all too aware of. "This season has been riddled with so much emotion due to dominating performances, hard-fought losses and injuries that have changed the entire dynamic of our team," she remarked. "When I look at my teammates, I know more than ever that they will give everything they have for me, and I will always do the same for them. We have proved ourselves this season and I know we'll keep fighting for our spot in the playoffs in years to come."

Field hockey motivated as season nears end

With final slate of games against conference foes, the Lady Mules look to go out with a bang

By Noah Brill
Staff Writer

As Muhlenberg's field hockey team comes closer to the conclusion of their season, they seem to be looking toward the future. Although the group started their season by winning four consecutive games against non-conference opponents, they have had mixed results since. Sporting a 9-7 overall record, there has been a clear disparity all year long between non-conference, where the team finished 6-1, and conference matchups, during which they are only 3-6.

In spite of their recent woes, the team has emphasized that the way they can play at their best is by doing as much as they can to take control on both offense and defense. "As a group, we are only able to win games if we work together, set the pace of the game and communicate effectively," Sophie Beeler '21 said. In addition to the lessons they learned about themselves as a unit during their most recent losing skid, the group has also demonstrated their ability to come together and stickhandle their way through difficult situations, most notably in their 1-0 win on Oct. 22 at home against Gwynedd Mercy in rainy conditions.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

The Lady Mules stand for the national anthem prior to their match with the Moravian Greyhounds on Oct. 1.

This final portion of the season has a significant amount of sentimental value for the team's older players, as they are enjoying their final practices and games with Jordan Segrave '20, the lone senior on the team. Segrave's looming departure gives them extra incentive to end their year on a high note in order to send their teammate out on a high. "We are facing two teams in the conference," said Mel Cartagena '22, seeming giddy about the team's chances of ending their whirlwind of a year by sending conference rivals a message about what's to come next season. "With hope, that will be some good competition, and we are optimistic about our chances of winning both of our remaining games," Cartagena followed up.

The group's attempt to do so is off to a promising start, as they won their game on the road against McDaniel on Oct. 26, the first of the final triad of games, all of which are against Centennial Conference rivals. The team likely played well over the weekend because they not only went in with a game plan, but also made sure to stick to it. "The game plan was to spread the field and keep up communication. It was important for us to play the highest level of field hockey we possibly could and not let the other team get into our head[s]," Cartagena said about the group's win. "We were able to keep this up and maintained ball possession for a large portion of the game, which was really important in helping us reach our goal," she added.

Beeler agreed with the sentiment and seemed focused on both the present and future. "We are still looking to win out the rest of our games this season and continue playing strong. That being said, we also have already begun working hard to prepare for next year," she said.

The field hockey team is set to finish their season during the coming week and cap off the year in front of the home crowd against the Washington College Shorewomen on Nov 2.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Mules Roll Through McDaniel

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Nick DeLucas '20 ran for a 24 yard touchdown in the 49-7 Mules win.

With a stellar win against McDaniel, 'Berg football continues their quest for perfection

By Samantha Brenner
Staff Writer

Off to a hot start to the season, the Muhlenberg football team is flying through the fall semester, going undefeated in their first seven games. The squad traveled to Maryland to take on a 3-3 McDaniel team on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The 2 p.m. matchup started quickly, with James Diggs '21 scoring a touchdown with 12 minutes left in the first quarter.

Starting the second quarter up 28-7, the offense continued to dominate, holding McDaniel to one touchdown, their lone touchdown of the game.

"This weeks area of focus was to try and play a complete football game for 60 minutes."

The Mules earned two big touchdowns in the third quarter to put them up 42-7, one on a 24-yard run from Nick DeLucas '20 and a seven-yard touchdown pass to Mitch Daniel '21.

The game ended with a 49-7 victory for the Mules, marking their fourth consecutive game with 40 or more points.

The team left McDaniel with another huge win, but individual Mules left with milestones as well, changing the way they view their team history.

Over the course of the past four games, the men have outscored opponents 185-39. With their impeccable defense, they have been able to hold opponents for the fourth consecutive road game to only single digit points, a feat that hasn't happened since 1939.

For Ryan Curtiss '20, this game was a personal milestone, breaking the Centennial Conference record for receiving yards by a tight end.

Leading into the last play of the game, Ethan Brader '23 threw a 93-yard touchdown, two yards short of tying the record

see Football page 10

Coming up this week in SPORTS
Nov. 2

Volleyball
Muhlenberg vs Washington College
Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 1:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Football
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 2:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Washington College
Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 4:00 p.m.
Varsity Field

Men's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Washington College
Saturday, Nov. 2 @ 7:00 p.m.
Varsity Field

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2019
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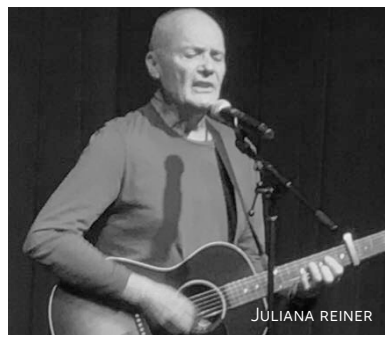
Office star Creed Bratton comes to Muhlenberg

read more on 7



Juliana Reiner

NEWS

Congresswoman Susan Wild bakes challah at Hillel for a charity event and discusses food insecurity on college campuses.

read more on 4

Photo Courtesy ofChallah for Hunger

ARTS & CULTURE

This year's wide range of Studio Productions included Thornton Wilder's *The Long Christmas Dinner* directed by Maris Quagliata '20. The play staged a portrait of a family aging around the dinner table.

read more on 5

OP/ED

Halloween might be over, but the monsters haven't left the pages of The Weekly. Read about Juli Mindlin's encounter with one, but only if you dare...

read more on 9

SPORTS

With Scotty Wood Stadium packed with family and friends, the Mules put on a show en route to an 8th straight victory against Johns Hopkins.

read more on 12

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house, pictured above.

ATO suspended over allegations of hazing and alcohol-related violations

By Laura Schwarz
News Editor

The Alpha Iota chapter of Alpha Tau Omega [ATO], the oldest fraternity established at Muhlenberg currently on campus, has been interimly suspended while the College investigates reports of potential hazing and incidents of "life safety violations" involving alcohol.

According to a FAQ about the investigation from the Office of Student Affairs, the current suspension is "part of an ongoing investigation, and information regarding the source of reports cannot be shared publicly. However, at this time, I can share that we received multiple independent and credible reports of concern."

Additionally, in a letter sent to members of the fraternity, Dean of Students Allison Gulati explained, "Interim suspension is imposed for a student group at the College when we have information that leads us to believe that the continued operation of the organization poses a substantial and immediate threat to the students and/or to others. This interim suspension is imposed pending your chapter's appearance before the Student Conduct Hearing Board and receipt of my final decision."

This is not ATO's first time under investigation for hazing-related issues. In 2000, the College withdrew recognition from the fraternity and revoked their charter after investigations into hazing in 1999. This investigation occurred after Muhlenberg's ATO chapter was featured in the controversial 1998 HBO documentary *Frat House*, directed by Todd Phillips, who recently directed *Joker*. In 1999, The Weekly reported on the ATO investigation, citing the controversy over the factuality of the hazing practices featured in the film. The fraternity members' insistence that the film was a fictional recreation eventually led to the documentary not being aired, though it tied for the Sundance Documentary Grand Jury Prize in 1998.

The chapter was re-colonized at 'Berg in 2009 and has remained on campus since.

Now, the fraternity members have been ordered to stop all chapter functions and may not have any contact between brothers aside from "1-1" conversation. However, ATO will be permitted to be represented in Interfraternity Council (IFC) meetings, and members who live in the fraternity's house will be allowed to stay there during the suspension.

In her email to the College community about the suspension, Gulati explained when to expect further details about the investigation and encouraged anyone with information concerning the stated issues to contact the Dean of Students Office.

"More information will be shared with the community once our investigation into this situation is complete, however it is our practice not to comment on active student conduct investigations. I can share that I do not make these decisions lightly." Gulati said.

This year, the College has added the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and plans on reinstating Phi Kappa Tau next semester. With the Student Code of Conduct issues posed currently by ATO, the FAQ sheet defended the college's decision to expand Greek life on campus.

"Muhlenberg has a long history of success with fraternities and sororities as part of college life ... the College's process to add additional organizations this year was undertaken to keep us at our historical level of engagement in fraternity and sorority life. Over the years, we have lost chapters due to membership issues as well as student conduct issues. As such, adding these organizations to campus brings us back to our typical level of involvement of approximately 18 percent of students."

The Office of Student Affairs also commented on how details of the hazing report will be released.

"Information related to the conduct of organizations, groups and teams is not protected information. The College will be transparent and share information when it is able to regarding the status of this organization and the behaviors that led to this situation. This information will be posted to our student conduct website as part of the anti-hazing report (updated on January 1, 2019) and will be shared as appropriate with other individuals across campus."

The Timothy Piazza Anti-Hazing law, which was passed in the Pennsylvania Senate in 2018, requires colleges to publish a five-year institutional report listing any reports of hazing and details of the investigation. The law also states that "an institution shall update the report biannually on January 1 and August 1 and shall post the updated report on its publicly accessible Internet website."

Muhlenberg, however, did not update the report this past August. The last incident listed in the report was a hazing incident related to the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, which was removed from campus as a result.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, October 28
Sick Student - 12:13 a.m.
Report of sick student in Prosser hall. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Injured Student - 7:50 p.m.
Report of injured student in Gabriel House/Wescoe School. MCEMS responded, student refused further treatment.

Suspicious Person - 8:40 p.m.
Report of suspicious person in Seegers Union. Individual left the area, investigation to continue.

Sick Student - 11:36 p.m.
Report of sick student in Brown Hall. MCEMS responded, AEMS responded and transported student to hospital.

Wednesday, October 30
Vandalism - 10:30 a.m.
Report of burn marks on rug and door jam in Martin Luther Hall, no suspects at this time.

Thursday, October 31
Vehicle Lock Out - 8:21 a.m.
Report of keys locked in vehicle on Liberty Street. Campus Safety successfully retrieved keys.

Alcohol Violation - 11:41 p.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Martin Luther Hall. Individual transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Friday, November 1
Institutional Vandalism - 12:01 a.m.
Report of damage to water fountain in Martin Luther Hall, 3rd floor. No suspects at this time.

Sick Student - 3:14 a.m.
Report of sick student in Martin Luther Hall. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Saturday, November 2
Alcohol Violation - 3:16 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Village 2 (2263 Turner Street). Individual transported to hospital by campus safety.

Noise Complaint - 5:17 p.m.
Report of noise complained on Tilghman Street. Resident spoken to, no further incident.

Alcohol Violation - 10:08 p.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Prosser Hall. Individual identified and spoken to, alcohol disposed of.

Sunday, November 3
Institutional Vandalism - 12:00 a.m.
Report of broken window in Prosser Hall, investigation to continue.

Disruptive Conduct Report Violation - 1:00 a.m.
Report of a noise complaint on N. 22nd Street. Residents spoken to, APD responded and will issue a Disruptive Conduct Report.

Alcohol Violation - 1:46 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Walz Hall. MCEMS responded, AEMS responded and transported student to hospital.

Thanksgiving Meal Packages
Bring home a slice of Muhlenberg for Thanksgiving!
Packages serve 8-10 people and include local carver-ready turkey from Jackson View Farm, whipped mashed potatoes, stuffing, rosemary garlic foccacia & much more!
Selections also available a la carte including desserts, vegan & gluten-free options!
RED DOOR CATERING

We'd tap that

Water fountain destroyed in Martin Luther Hall

By Sydney Coplin
Managing Editor

Early Friday evening, on one of the final days before daylight savings began bringing darkness upon the campus as many students are just getting out of class, residents of Martin Luther Hall were notified that a water fountain was completely ripped from the wall on the third floor of the building.

The notification came in the form of an email from David Garcia, Area Coordinator for the East area of campus. The email specified that the damage was so severe that the water fountain was no longer functional and therefore had to be replaced.

"This type of behavior is unacceptable; it shows a lack of respect for the community and the property as a whole. If anyone has any information as to what happened regarding this, please let me know at your earliest convenience," the email continued. "If no information is provided, then it is possible to charge the building to cover the costs of these repairs. If you know or if someone you know has any knowledge about this, please have them reach out to me directly."

Brenda Lakis, Associate Director of Campus Safety, noted that the investigation is still ongoing, and there is no further information at this time.

She also explained the impact that the incident of vandalism had on not only the residence hall, but the campus community as a whole.

"The impact is more of a cost to replace [the water fountain] ... [and] man hours to clean up and install/remove the unit," she said. "[The] impact to the community in the residence hall would be [that] they are without the drinking fountain until repairs can be made."

The water fountain has since been repaired and replaced.

Ryan Hebert '22, a resident of Martin Luther third floor, was not on campus during the weekend that the incident took place; however, he has been trying to search for answers of what happened on his floor.

"I wasn't here that weekend; I had to go home for a doctor's appointment, but when I got back I asked around if anyone knew what happened," Hebert said. "Everyone on the floor I asked gave the same general answer of 'I don't know who did it or what happened, but I'm not complaining because we got a newer, better water fountain.'"

Hebert continued on to explain that the new water fountain includes the bottle-filling station and therefore seems to be cleaner. Nonetheless, despite the fact that the water fountain is new, he expresses grief for the circumstances.

"I do feel bad that it had to be replaced," he remarked. "At the same time, I'm not sure how someone could have broken it, but then again, I didn't really see what it looked like. It was fixed by the time I got back on campus."

Lakis also commented on the probable action involved in the destruction.

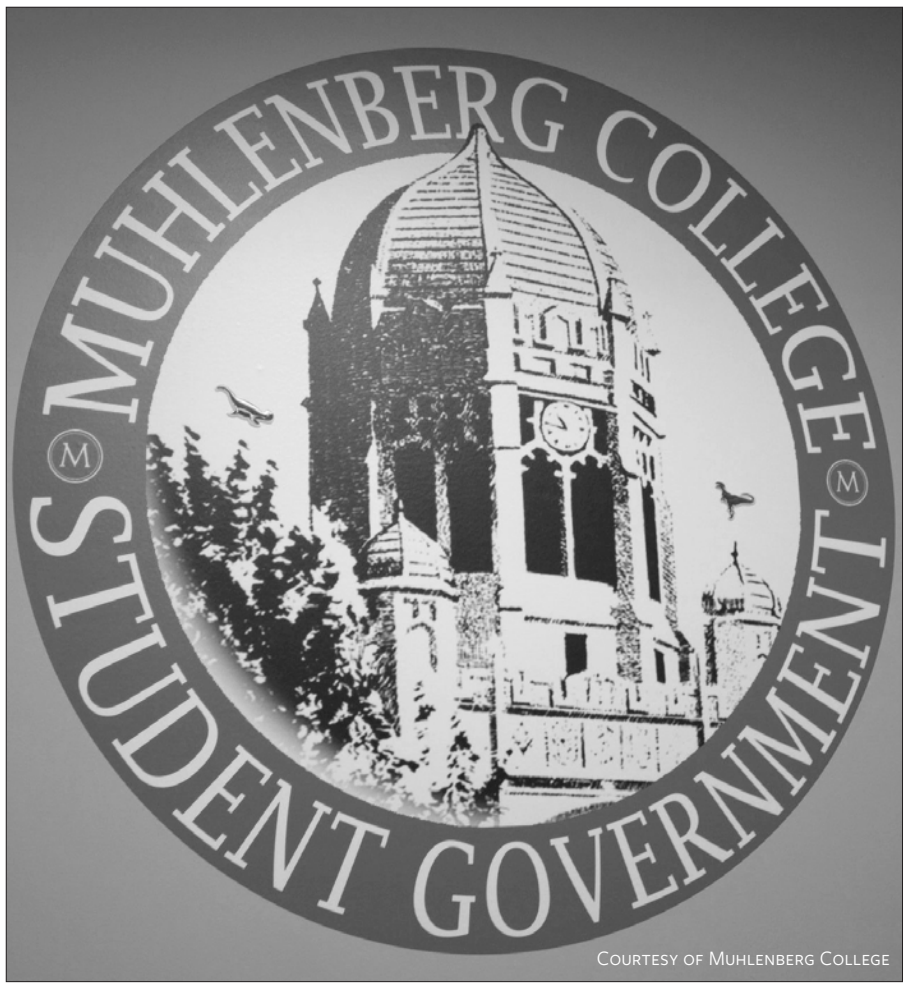
"It did take some force for the type of damage that occurred," she added.

RAs in the building were unable to comment due to the confidentiality of the situation.

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

SGA holds special election

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Contributing Writer



Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

On Wednesday, Oct. 30, the Student Government Association (SGA) hosted a Special Election to fill three vacant representative positions. It was the first election of its kind to be held this academic year, with another scheduled for January 2020. Any Muhlenberg student with a vision for the College was eligible to participate. In total, eight candidates ran for the open positions, all of whom were first-years or sophomores.

Student body president Stephanie Ng '20 and SGA are pleased to announce the winners of the election: Jason Ivey '23, Sam Morgan '21 and Eliana Schuster '22. The new representatives voiced promising ideas at the Special Election; each student is actively engaged in various groups and organizations throughout campus, which Ng believes will result in better representation of the student body.

Ivey is a freshman on the men's soccer team and is involved with Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

"He hopes to start initiatives such as 'Let's Make a Difference Week,' where the basic premise is that each day of the week, there would be a new community service effort that the student body would participate in," stated Ng.

Morgan is a sophomore on the men's cross country and track team who transferred from West Point Academy last year.

"He hopes to create more SGA-sponsored events to fill the divide between groups and push for renovations of the school that students are looking for," Ng said.

"I'm really happy with all of the progress that Student Government has made over the span of this semester."

Schuster is a sophomore who is a member of the Muhlenberg Environmental Action Team (EnAcT).

"She hopes to educate students about their impact on the environment and start more sustainability initiatives on campus," explained Ng.

For those who may have missed election night, Ng offers some insight on the actual process.

"Once there are vacancies that need to be filled, we send out an email to the student body. From there, people who want to run show up to the special election," said Ng. "Each candidate has two minutes to give a speech, and the general assembly asks questions to the individuals after each one gives their speech. Then, everyone fills out a Google form and votes. The vice president then announces who was elected, and the new members join the rest of our meeting."

Once the announcement is made, the newly elected representatives assume certain roles and responsibilities within the SGA.

"A representative's responsibilities are to attend weekly SGA meetings, where various discussions and voting occur, serve on one of the three committees (Finance, Campus Outreach, or Student Engagement), represent a constituency group and support students by attending and participating in various events," explained Ng. "SGA representatives are also responsible for advocating for student wants/needs and [participating] in activities such as tabling, dorm storming and surveying."

With the conclusion of the Special Election, Ng is optimistic in the ability of the SGA to enact positive change here at Muhlenberg. New initiatives are underway that Ng believes will gain support from the student body. Ng commented on the development of some of these initiatives.

"There is a meeting with Dean Gulati in place on Nov. 4 to talk about the logistics for free laundry and feminine products," Ng said. "The problem we are facing is that the school is locked into a nine-year contract with a laundry company, so although free laundry will be a reality in the future for the campus, we may not see it while we're here."

Whine Week is a new event designed to promote and foster conversation among students and their student government; the student body will have the opportunity to voice their opinions and let their ideas be heard.

"Whine Week is scheduled for the week before Thanksgiving break and is currently in the works," said Ng. "We [SGA] have most of it planned out, so students should see tabling during that week, raffles, dorm storming and some sort of social event at the conclusion of the week."

SGA is also advocating for milkshakes to be sold at GQ.

"The Seeger's Union committee that I sit on is being held on Nov. 4, so I will be pushing for milkshakes at GQ ... so it's just a matter of time [until] we can get that going," explained Ng.

The Student Government Association is determined to make these initiatives a reality and hopes that the College will benefit from them.

"I'm really happy with all of the progress that Student Government has made over the span of this semester," Ng emphasized. "The energy is great and the momentum just keeps building. We would love to hear feedback from the student body."

Hillel goes Wild for challah

Representative Susan Wild discusses food insecurity with students

By Cydney Wilson
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Challah for Hunger

Members of Challah for Hunger pose with Susan Wild (center) and their successful challah loaves.

Susan Wild, the congresswoman for Pennsylvania's 7th congressional district (Muhlenberg's own) visited Muhlenberg's Hillel House for "Baking with Representative Susan Wild," an event sponsored by the groups Challah for Hunger and BergVotes. In addition to baking challah with students, Wild discussed her views on food insecurity and how she is working to combat the issue as a policymaker.

At the event, Challah for Hunger co-presidents Gabriela Solomon '20 and Natalie David '22 explained the mission of the organization.

"We are a part of over 80 Challah for Hunger chapters nationwide with a common mission for social justice and a passion for baking," explained Solomon.

"Food insecurity is defined as being unable to consistently access safe and nutritious food," David elaborated. "It is an issue that affects millions of college students across this country every day. Currently studies show that 40 percent of four-year university students and 50 percent of community college students are food insecure. Through Challah for Hunger, we hope to raise awareness for this issue, as no student should have to choose between textbooks and food. Today all the proceeds will go to Mazon, a Jewish [organization responding] to hunger, as well as the Jewish Family Service (JFS) of the Lehigh Valley. Any challah that we do not sell will be donated to our very own MULE community cupboard as well as the JFS food pantry."

Allison Kaye '21 is the Vice President of BergVotes, a nonpartisan group of students trying to raise political engagement and awareness at Muhlenberg.

Kaye introduced Wild, saying, "Representative Wild is the first woman to represent Pennsylvania's 7th congressional district, and she is the only Jewish national representative from Pennsylvania."

In the nature of this event, which focused on food insecurity in the Lehigh Valley, David asked, "What would you say to those who tell college students to 'just eat ramen' when faced with food insecurity and financial hardships?"

Wild responded, saying, "Anecdotally, I ate a lot of buttered noodles with salt and pepper when I was in college ... It was cheap, it was filling ... But it's not an answer. I really became keenly aware of food insecurity issues not nearly long enough ago, it kind of started around the focus on public schools and the lunch shaming issue of kids who couldn't pay for their lunches ... When I started hearing about these policies that some schools have of not providing the same lunch to a student because of a school lunch debt, I was frankly appalled, and I think that's when the issue first really came home to me."

Today, Wild focuses on food insecurity in her policies and in her personal life.

"To people who suggest, 'Just eat ramen,' ramen fills your stomach, but it doesn't do a lot for your health; there's no nutritional value, and it doesn't create the right kind of body and mind that you need for your studies, so I think it's an inappropriate response, even having had lots of buttered noodles in my time."

Wild also spoke about her opinion of programs like SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"[Food insecurity] is an issue that affects millions of college students across this country every day."

"I'm grateful that there are programs like food programs on campuses," she said. "I am really, really happy those programs exist, but I find it unfortunate that they need to exist. Because in reality ... it's one thing to be there to help fill a gap. It's another thing to be the primary source of nutrition for students, or for seniors, or for people in need."

Wild added, "I do think we need some sort of food security program that benefits people in need. I'm not suggesting that we should start providing taxpayer-funded meals for every person who is on a college campus by any means, but I think to expect people to advance their education, and we know that any kind of higher education increases your wages and your productivity for the rest of your life ... not just a four-year college degree, but any level of higher education makes people more productive; it makes people earn more money and, in turn, build our society and our communities."

Wild addressed how her perception of food insecurity on college campuses has changed over time.

"As much as I had thought about food insecurity in public schools meaning elementary, middle and high schools, until I was an elected member of Congress and started doing tours of the college campuses, it never really occurred to me," said Wild. "I had been food insecure myself when I was in college, but I didn't ever think of it that way. I just thought of it as one of those struggles that college kids go through."

The congresswoman also addressed how campus food insecurity is sometimes wrongly blamed on students' actions.

"We've got first-generation college students across the country who are trying to break out of whatever their family mold is and pursue their education, and to suggest that it's their problem if they have food insecurity issues I think is really blatantly wrong."

Ultimately, Wild believes that college food insecurity is directly related to issues of rising college tuition. "It's all part of a bigger problem. The cost of college education has gone up tremendously since I was in college in the late '70s ... Student loan repayment terms were much more favorable then, nobody paid interest on their loans while they were actually in school ... When I graduated from law school, I had 20,000 dollars worth of student loan debt and I thought I was going to be broke for the rest of my life. I repaid it at the rate of 105 dollars a month ... I didn't have to start paying back for a year, the interest rate was one percent ... The idea that we are taking the youngest members of our society who are entering the workforce and saddling them with the most oppressive loans and the most oppressive loan rates is really unconscionable," said Wild.

Wild shared "The primary focus that I have is in my education and labor committee because it represents the needs of this district so well. The education piece deals with everything from preschool all the way up through college and beyond, including how we train students for the future of what the workforce will look like, including those who choose not to go to college or aren't able to go to college and instead feel that they want to pursue a technical or training type of career."

Wild said, "I'm really committed to the idea that we need to get back to where we value higher education as something that is not only important to the individual students, but [also] to our community and our society and the country at large ... we need to be investing in the next generation with the expectation that we will put them in a position of being able to repay not only their student loans, but also repay society by the virtue of the work that they do."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter."

- John Keats

Christmas Comes Early

By Danny Milkis
Staff Writer

The Long Christmas Dinner by Thornton Wilder is a very powerful, existential play that premiered on campus during this weekend's Muhlenberg Theatre Association [MTA] Studio Production festival.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, four student-produced one-act plays debuted in the Studio Theatre for an audience of roughly one hundred people each. Featuring two hilarious comedies, *The Actor's Nightmare* by Christopher Durang and *A Marriage Proposal* by Anton Chekhov, as well as two heartbreaking tragedies, *La Maestra* by Enrique Buenaventura and *The Long Christmas Dinner* by Thornton Wilder, the event brought with it a lot of eager theatergoers and a weekend of astoundingly successful attention for the MTA.

The Long Christmas Dinner was directed by Maris Quagliata '20, who explained that her fascination with Wilder's work on this piece began right here on campus. "I chose this play after Charlie [Richter, professor of Theatre and Dance] had talked about it to my directing class a lot, mentioning how much he loved the play and wanted to see it be done at the college," says Quagliata. "I took the opportunity to read it and really fell in love with the story that was being told."

The Long Christmas Dinner featured a large cast performing from a dramatic text written in 1931; a modern lens became essential in Quagliata's direction in order to accurately portray the play's message to a twenty-first century collegiate audience, as well as a necessity in the scenic design and character development explored by the actors.

The power behind this story was in consequence and the production team did a wonderful job of making this universal concept of a Christmas dinner something that audience members could latch onto. In other words, the Christmas dinner was transformed into a concept imbued with a familiar sense of nostalgia that ideally brought light into the more serious themes being expressed through the piece.

Sydney Holliday '23 and Ashley Hilary '22 act out a scene at *The Long Christmas Dinner*.

"I think the reason this show needs to be seen by a modern audience is because it brings us back to our roots and makes us think about the world around us more realistically," Quagliata explains. "Today's society is so focused on the next thing, we forget to enjoy what we have right now in the moment because you'll never know when you won't have those things anymore. The story is all about the passing of time and family traditions and their values."

"Today's society is so focused on the next thing, we forget to enjoy what we have right now in the moment."

The set was complete with a large, family-sized table and an artistic backdrop of a starry night sky projected onto the back curtain of the studio theatre. The stars added an ethereal element to the work being shown onstage that brought light to mortality and the truth about humanity's curse of finite time that truly defined the importance of this play.

In addition, the staging of this production really depended on the strong performance of the actors, who definitely showed that they had quite a strong grasp on the material.

Quagliata explains that she encouraged the directing process to be just as much about how the actors interpreted the story as how she interpreted it, creating a more cohesive back-and-forth environment that allowed for the sharing of ideas.

"I've always found myself very interested in making this a collaborative process," she says. "I wanted to know what the actors were thinking and what they were getting from the story as well [as] them knowing my thoughts. Working with the smart group of actors I got made the process so easy and fun; we really took the time to make sure that we were on the same page about what was happening in the moment, and it made all the difference."

Cast member Sydney Holliday '23, who played the role of The Nurse, describes her experience as "the best first Muhlenberg theatre experience I could have asked for!" This seemed to be a testament to the humility, work ethic and genuine love for the arts projected by members of the cast of *The Long Christmas Dinner*.

"It's also amazing to see how even just one audience member can be changed so drastically by a short, one-act play," continues Holliday. Overall, the actors as well as the production team seemed to have an extremely supportive and thoughtful outlook in the presentation of their work.

Quagliata's attention to detail in this piece seemed to be at the forefront of what this production stood for, and it showed in virtually every aspect of the final product.

"I spent a lot of time with my stage manager and designers trying to figure out the best way to show the aging, both physical aging of people and the aging of the space," said Quagliata. "Eventually, everyone settled on 'less is more.' Wilder already calls for simplicity because the importance is the piece and the words and the people, not the objects."

"At the end of the day we will remember the objects that are truly important to us, like the can that is used through the piece or the little notebook Genevieve has recalling her family's history. Having a simple set design helped with bringing this to life, as well as using only glasses and physicality to show the aging of the family."

All in all, *The Long Christmas Dinner* was a moving piece of live theatre that highlighted the talent and dedication of Muhlenberg's MTA and all of the students involved in creating a truly touching, heartfelt production that resonated even through the test of time.

Come on down to Jay's Local: Family-friendly, family-run

By Ayden Levine
Contributing Writer

It's official! As of Oct. 12, Allentown has a brand new restaurant, Jay's Local, replacing Café Frais, which closed last fall. Open weekly from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., this new restaurant is everything you could ever ask for.

Right in the backyard of Muhlenberg College, this small family-owned restaurant caters both to the relaxed nature of the suburb in which it's located and to the rushed life of its college neighbors.

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly
Jay's Local operates across the street from Muhlenberg College.

Scherline explained that most of the menu items were student's ideas, and that the low prices were also determined by the students.

Jay's Local is named after owner Lyell Scherline's late father Jay Scherline, who was a personal injury lawyer of Scherline and Associates. Scherline works with his mother Lorrie Scherline and his best friend Matt Feehan. Along with naming the restaurant after his father, Scherline and his family also have photos of Jay Scherline adorning the walls as tribute to him.

Scherline, who works in real estate, bought the building with Feehan with the end goal of establishing a restaurant there, but had no idea what they wanted it to look like or what food they wanted to serve. They had decided to present their basic plan to an Innovation and Entrepreneurship class here at Muhlenberg and to have the students pitch ideas for what they wanted the restaurant to be.

"One team of students wanted it to be a night-club, and one team asked for it to be open till 5:00 a.m., neither of which we could accommodate because we have to be courteous to the families in this neighborhood, but we were able to work with a lot of the requests we were given," said Scherline. Scherline explained that most of the menu items were students' ideas and that the low prices were also determined by the students.

Scherline is especially proud of his long list of 11 local vendors that cater his restaurant, which he displays for all to see. "People don't know much about Allentown and all the amazing things it has to offer, so I try my hardest to only get ingredients from local vendors to promote and advertise how amazing Allentown is," Scherline said.

Along with being a neighbor of Muhlenberg, Jay's Local's walls are also decorated with old photos of life at the College. "We had empty wall space that we didn't know what to do with, so we reached out to the people in charge of the Muhlenberg archives and asked for some old photos. We have plans to change them out each season, so in winter we'll have photos of the college covered in snow, and around May we'll have some old graduation photos," said Scherline. Each photo displayed also has a small description underneath to explain it.

The menu includes a variety of foods and beverages, including a Bacon Maple Cinnamon Roll, their Local Salad and a selection of smoothies. Jay's Local is also very conscious of special diets. Their grill and blender are safe for those with gluten allergies, and there are also many vegan and vegetarian options. Additionally, their cutlery are eco-friendly to minimize waste.

When asked what their plans for the future are, Feehan replied, "We plan to have different groups come to perform for our customers. We actually have the Chaimonics from Muhlenberg coming to sing on Monday, Nov. 4 at 7:00 p.m."

So when you have the chance, you should go pop on over to 2301 Liberty Street, grab yourself a milkshake, play a game from the game corner and take in the warm environment that is Jay's Local.

Artist of the Week: Heather Downey '20

By Corinne Battistelli
Contributing Writer

"I like dance because it is a way to abstract pretty easily and there are many ways to be involved," said Heather Downey '20.

A double major in dance and math and on the secondary education track, Downey has always had dance in her life. She started taking dance classes at the age of two, but was kicked out of class as she would not listen. She picked classes back up at three and a half. Downey danced competitively from five-years-old until high school. She was constantly performing in styles such as ballet, jazz, tap and lyrical, with rehearsals lasting 16 hours a week.

"I can express myself in ways I never knew before."

Downey has been dancing her way through college, staying involved all four years. Her main styles have been modern and tap. However, she did discover a love for choreography along the way.

"I can express myself in ways I never knew before," she commented when talking about what choreography means to her.

Just recently, Downey applied for a show at SteelStacks in Bethlehem. The show was part of Dance EXposure through the Lehigh Valley Dance Exchange. The dance Downey submitted was a restaged piece from Dance Emerge 2019. Dance Emerge occurs right here on campus, showcasing the ideas and talents of young student choreographers.

The piece Downey created is called "how to be without" and was performed by four dancers. For the SteelStacks performance, the original four dancers returned to dance once again. All it took were a few rehearsals to refresh both mind and body, and they were ready to go. In Downey's opinion, it was an even better performance than the first time around. Even with only a few months between both renditions, she saw slight changes in her dancers that enhanced the performance.

"They are different people now," she reflected. "They can bring their new experiences into the choreography."

The dance closed the show and received a good response from viewers. Downey is hoping to take up other opportunities like this again to expand her reach outside of Muhlenberg.

At Muhlenberg, Downey has been very involved. She is choreographing and performing in both Moving Stories and Master Choreographers. Over fall break, she stayed on campus to be a part of a guest artist's piece, which was such an "immersive experience" for her.

Downey can even be found on the Dance Emerge poster. One constant of her Muhlenberg career has been performing in tap pieces.

"I still find it to be a challenge and it is exciting," Downey said.

As of next semester, Downey will be student teaching, so there will be less time for dancing. It is hard to balance two separate career paths, but Downey is passionate about both. She wants to focus on teaching, but also wants to choreograph. She simply cannot split herself in half, as much as she may wish to do so on some days.

"The plan as of now is that teaching math will come first, but dance will be in my life somehow, someway. I am just not sure in what capacity."

Photo courtesy of Heather Downey '20
Heather Downey '20 shares her passion for dance.

Never too old to rock:
Attending an evening with Creed Bratton

By Arielle Moss
Arts and Culture Editor

As one of the culminating events of the 2019 Family Weekend, on Saturday, Nov. 2, Muhlenberg families gathered inside the Event Space to see comedian and singer Creed Bratton, who is best known for his role on the hit NBC sitcom The Office. This event was so well-attended that the audience expanded into the Light Lounge, with people filling both of the spaces.

Prior to Bratton's entrance to the stage, singer-songwriter Renee Levine '22 performed some songs, both originals and covers, including her original song in Spanish called "Ve a Mi."

After Levine's performance, the audience began cheering "Creed" as soon as they saw the lighting of the elevator from which he came reflect off of his head through the black curtain, which shielded the backstage area.

As soon as Bratton entered the stage, one audience member asked him to do a cartwheel, to which Bratton replied, "You do a fucking cartwheel," signaling to the audience that this was not going to necessarily be a family-friendly event, despite it being Family Weekend. Still, Bratton explained, "That was out of character for me."

Nonetheless, the audience enjoyed the songs Bratton sang while playing the guitar, some of them being originals from previous and future albums, including songs from his album *Tell Me About It* and from his soon-to-be-released album called *Slightly Altered*. Prior to being on The Office, Bratton was a member of the American rock band The Grass Roots during the 1960s. As a nod to his days as a band member, Bratton sang a new acoustic version of The Grass Roots song "Temptation Eyes," which will be on his album Slightly Altered.

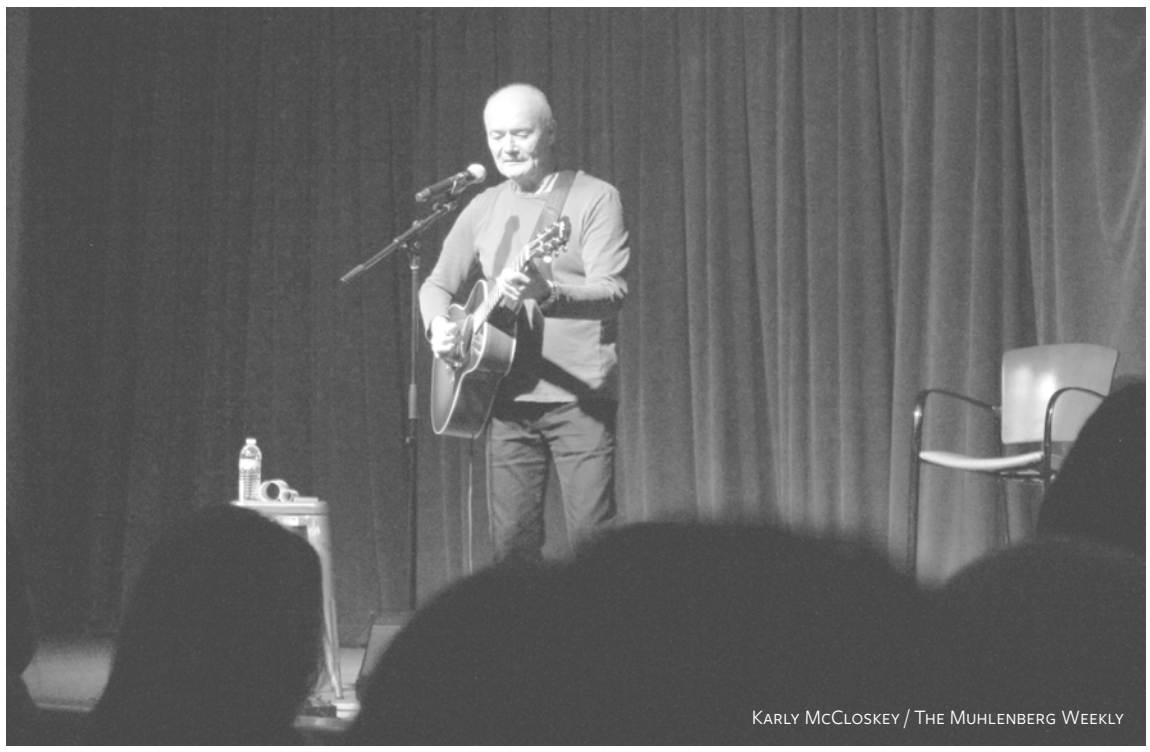
"My favorite part was when he sang his song 'Chemical Wings,' where he showed that even a senior citizen can rock out on the guitar," said Amber Zion '20. "What was great is that you didn't have to be a fan of The Office to enjoy his performance, because even though I don't watch that show, I was still very entertained by him."

In between songs, Bratton would share stories from his life, during which he admitted to the audience, "This may or may not be true, any of this stuff." This left the audience questioning which stories were real and which were fake.

For example, Bratton shared stories of his career as an adult film actor, but the titles of the films he said he starred in, such as "Alien Penis," were so ridiculous that it was tempting to research them to see if they actually existed.

Another example was when Bratton jokingly said that he heard that a member of The Weekly was taking photos of his performance, which made it apparent to the audience that he researched the school before arriving for his show.

"I honestly thought some jokes were really hit or miss; however, he definitely was fun, and the energy definitely was there," said Connor Baker '22, who helped coordinate the performance as Film Chair for Muhlenberg Activities Council, which sponsored the event. "My favorite part was all The Office stuff I was familiar with, and the crowd came alive especially during those sections."



Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Comedian, Creed Bratton, sings one of his original songs at his performance during Family Weekend.

"What was great is that you didn't have to be a fan of *The Office* to enjoy his performance, because even though I don't watch that show, I was still very entertained by him."

During the event, even though Bratton often presented himself with a comedic persona, he gave audience advice. such as to "stay in class."

There were moments during the show where Bratton gave the audience the opportunity to sing along with him. One example was when he invited an audience member onto the stage so she could hold an obviously fake review of The Office, while Bratton shared the review to the audience in the form of a song. This song was played to a tune that every audience member knew, even those who never saw the television show from which Bratton is known: The Office theme song. Bratton sang his original lyrics to the audience. The altered lyrics are about the show, particularly about the actors and the characters they portray. Audience members who are fans of The Office were able to understand and appreciate the references from the T.V. show in his song.

Bratton concluded his performance at Muhlenberg the same way The Office concluded their series finale: with Bratton's original song "All the Faces."

"Well, the last song, 'All the Faces,' always struck home with me because that was the episode I watched directly after breaking up with my boyfriend," said audience member Noah Lebovitz '20. "I break down in tears every time I listen to the song, and in person, it was such a joyous experience; I was sobbing. Creed's personality and charisma were impeccably brought together and I'm really thankful for being able to attend the show."

With the great success of Bratton's performance, it will be no surprise to see similar events in the future.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

Fraternity leave

In the wake of the intermittent suspension of Alpha Tau Omega, the question should be asked: Why does Muhlenberg even have social fraternities?

All three of the College's current fraternities — Alpha Tau Omega (ATO), Delta Tau Delta (DTD) and Zeta Beta Tau (ZBT) — as well as "new" fraternities Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi) and Phi Kappa Tau (PKT), have been previously removed from campus, only to return, with Sigma Phi Epsilon (Sig Ep) having been kicked off campus in February 2018.

Most of the causes of the expulsion of these fraternities from campus are the results of hazing, alcohol violations or other, often illegal, incidents. They're removed from campus for a period of time, long enough so that no brothers who were members at the time of the incident remain, before coming back. Yet just a few cursory searches of The Weekly archives show that it's a recurring pattern: frat gets kicked off, waits a few years, frat returns, a few years pass, frat gets kicked off, an endless cycle.

Frat gets kicked off, waits a few years, frat returns, a few years pass, frat gets kicked off, an endless cycle.

Dean Gulati's announcement of ATO's temporary suspension, pending further investigation into the allegations, comes just days after the suspension of another Penn State fraternity after a 17-year-old died at a party on Oct. 19, 2019. This is the second time in over two years that the Greek life at Penn State can be linked to a death, with Timothy Piazza having died as a result of hazing in February 2017. The ATO incident also comes under a year after Pennsylvania implemented a new anti-hazing law named in Piazza's honor. Yet, Muhlenberg is welcoming PKT back with open arms when they were removed from campus as a response to hazing allegations in 2013.

Another small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania started their fall semester with no fraternities at all. Following student protests in response to the release of documents detailing graphic sexual and sexist remarks made by brothers, the fraternities on Swarthmore College's campus have unanimously disbanded. Swarthmore's endowment? $2.1 billion. Muhleneberg's endowment? $263 million.

Here's why we think these numbers matter: Endowments are used to fund things like scholarships — both need- and merit-based — and new construction on campus. Those who remember the Master Plan from a few years ago know that Muhlenberg is seeking to expand, wanting to build new dorms and classroom spaces. This would require additional funds, funds which often come from alumni — alumni like TKE Zeta Eta Alumni Association, which donated $250,000 for a scholarship according to the 'Berg Alumni Twitter.

All of this comes back to the question at hand: Why does Muhlenberg even have social fraternities? What exactly are the pros and the cons? And when do the cons finally outweigh the pros?

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

DC, do better

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

I'll admit, this was probably the most frustrating Graphic Opinions I've ever written. I didn't have a topic for Will at our weekly editorial board meeting on Thursday, but that wasn't a real problem because he knows I'm "good for it," especially after two articles in a row where I went rogue and wrote about topics completely different than what I'd pitched.

As the weekend came to a close, though, I worried that Will's trust may have been misguided. I still didn't know what to write about. So, I turned to catching up on the new season of *Titans*. With only three more episodes left, it doesn't make sense to give the show a proper review, as so much could happen in that time.

I then turned to try and catch up on the comics that I'd been neglecting, trying to start the "Heroes in Crisis" storyline that had been taking over DC over the past year. It had been written off as terrible by the online community, but I thought, "Maybe I should give it a chance." After seeing in one issue that they'd killed off two of my favorite characters — Roy Harper and Wally West, who have long histories and are incredibly important in universe — I stopped reading.

So I tried to pick up where I left off in *The Flash*. No dice. I was extremely uninterested. I read the new issue of *Young Justice* that came out in early October — more annoyance at the rehashing of a storyline that has been reused, in some approximation, with these characters for the fourth time now.

So my complaint is this: in a medium that thrives on imagination and artistry, that allows anything to happen and to be plausible because that's the nature of the stories — why are they so boring?

I love superheroes. I love the complex relationships that come with decades of history. I love the moral questions and dilemmas that comics tackle. I love the concept that the only thing you really need to be a hero is the desire to help just one person.

I hate that DC is still not addressing any of this.

They continue to ignore or rewrite these histories and bonds, claiming to make the characters more accessible or modern, when in reality, it's just alienating fans like myself who find their favorites killed off — or worse, out of character. They use complex storylines claiming to tackle real issues when they do little more than scratch the surface, and even then it's hard to tell in all the chaos. They constantly ignore this simple concept of heroism in the name of making things dark and gritty.

All I'm asking for is Batman solving a mystery, one that doesn't involve the fate of the world. The Titans and Teen Titans being allowed to make mistakes and learn and be the friends that made me fall in love with comics in the first place. Let Barry Allen be happy and hopeful and his comics silly and fun.

I don't think this is a tall order to ask, and I don't think that individual writers and artists are responsible for it. I think that DC as a whole is missing the mark and not listening to their fanbase, or is only listening to the vocal minority of their fans. If any DC executives are reading this right now, I hope you listen when I say, "Let comics be fun again," because right now, I'm so frustrated that I can't even read them.

speaking your language.

Indirimbo: Bizashiraho

by Grace Imanariyo (Gracious Gra3ce)
Contributing Writer

Ni iki gitumye wiheba nshuti?
Ni iki gitumye amarira atemba mu maso?
Ni iki gitumye ubabara?

Ibibazo byose bizashiraho
Agahinda kose kazashiraho
Urupfu no kwiheba bizibagirana.
Uburwayi bwose buzashiraho
Yesu azahanagura amarira
Yego, Bizashiraho.

Hasigaye Igihe Gito
Umwami Yesu akagaruka
Azashyiraho iherezo.

To read English translations of our Speaking Your Language articles (and listen to a recording of this original song in Kinyarwanda!), visit muhlenbergweekly.com.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

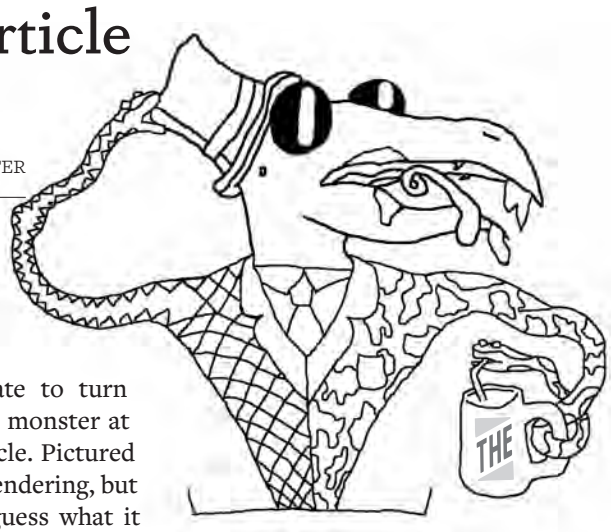
It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

There's a monster at the end of this article

By Juli Mindlin
Contributing Writer



Oh no. Dear reader. You do not understand what you have just started, but it isn't too late to turn back. See, there's a monster at the end of this article. Pictured here is an artistic rendering, but really, I can only guess what it looks like. It will surely be a horrifying, slimey creature, but good news! We don't have to face it! You can just stop reading, right now.

Okay. I see you haven't stopped reading, and I get it! Situations like this don't happen very often, but you have to believe me and STOP. Trust me, there are so many better articles to read in this issue. Look, right next to this, it's "DC, do better." Sounds interesting, right? Why don't you go and read about "wrestling," or go check out "We'd tap that." In fact, you don't have to read in the first place. Go play a sport, nerd (sorry!). No one is asking you to stay here. I certainly am not.

Listen buddy, do this for the both of us. I am certainly in no state to get scared. I was sitting at the top of this article for a while, and I refuse to throw in the towel. I will not succumb to the beast. I successfully avoided all articles about anything scary - haunted houses, spooktaculars and inequality - I don't think my heart can take it. So seriously, stop reading. I beg of you.

...but good news! We don't have to face it! You can just stop reading, right now.

Do you think this is a game? You just moseyed on over here and completely disregard my feelings of fright. Who do you think you are, dear reader? Honestly, it sounds like you are the monster. Yeah, that's right. You care nothing for the little guys, like me, you just have your own ignorant, selfish reading habits that you just have to fulfill. I asked you, pleaded with you. I almost offered you money. You clearly don't care about anyone but yourself. And look, here you are, still reading- four paragraphs in.

Wait, we are five paragraphs in and still nothing bad has happened. This is the end, and there is no monster. I am the only one here... why was I so scared? I guess I've been selfish. I was afraid of coming to terms with the fact that I am ignorant. I'm just closed minded to anything challenging, like the Olympics. This entire time, I did not think once about your own interests. Maybe I should step outside my comfort zone, and maybe you just like reading this, and that's okay. I shouldn't have stolen 15 dollars from you and I... had no right to call you a monster. It was me all along. I think, I'll try to be better. Thank you.

...

Boo!

Hello, my name is _____

By Em Panetta
Contributing Writer

A few weeks ago, Michael Che misgendered Caitlyn Jenner during *SNL*'s "Weekend Update." He seemed to deliver the joke knowingly, as if anticipating a negative audience response, of which he received plenty online. Let's get one thing straight. Pronouns and names aren't a revocable privilege, whether out of anger, humor or anything else, and Che's joke was wildly thoughtless. I'm deliberately not quoting Che's hateful joke here, because it is not productive to reproduce such deeply hurtful words, especially when they are framed as humor. While Jenner has had her share of media missteps, nobody deserves to be misgendered — let alone on national television, in a joking manner or otherwise — and I refuse to reproduce such speech in my own work.

However, the sentiment still remains: to deliberately misgender or deadname a person for any reason (for humor, malice or simply by accident) is simply unacceptable. Names, pronouns and gender identity are deeply personal linguistic markers that follow us in our every move. Their rigidity is only temporary; names and pronouns are only as fixed as their wearer constructs them, and in their change, identity shifts as well. Since so much of our personhood is defined by the vocabulary we use to describe it, the gravity of hearing our truths reproduced back to us is indescribable. To put it more simply, the validation of hearing others articulate a chosen name, pronoun and gender identity language is vital to our wellbeing, trans or otherwise. When this social agreement is broken, such as in Che's comment on "Weekend Update", not only does the joke's subject suffer, but so does the ethos of the entire community.

For me, part of embracing my genderqueerness manifested in choosing a new name and they/them pronouns, in addition to renouncing — and, in some instances, reclaiming — gendered language (colloquialisms like "fella," "guys" and "lady," as examples). Although my self-naming process was informed by my choice to honor family naming traditions, the revolutionary act of re-identifying oneself is universal: our linguistic identity markers are no longer the ones assigned to us at birth, and, in fact, we create new ones by our will alone. In this way, a "Hello, my name is ___" sticker does more than extend a friendly introduction to strangers. It is a proclamation of our personhood as we construct it.

As liberating as a name tag may be, any sort of personal evolution does not come without growing pains. Misgendering and deadnaming are daily occurrences that I and other trans folks constantly confront. While the experience of interacting with one's deadname is different for each individual, this clash between past and present iterations of self are almost unavoidable. My ideological sticking point is this: for almost two decades, my life existed in another name, memories of my now unused identity still live on in others' minds and work I've produced under an old identity speaks to others in its own voice. My writing, achievements, losses, friendships and connections, all of which occurred under a different set of names and pronouns, are not erased simply because I now go by another title. In a sense, my deadname is a form of immortalization of this person that no longer exists corporeally, but has a different timeline in a metaphysical way. My and others' choices to allow our deadnames to exist in old work is thus a personal and deliberate decision, and a political one at that. At the same time that we may choose to do this, we have no control over peoples' memories of us or the ways in which we have been read in particular spaces, which results in a dichotomy between deliberate interaction with the deadname and the places it still exists outside of our reach. So this honor I give the person I was when in my past through allowing her to exist as my deadname is both in my control and out of it. By still allowing that name to publically exist, I'm entrusting our viewer quite a bit, and inviting them in to this project of honor too.

Although this might be a bit unconventional, I'll close with an introduction. Hello, my name is Em. Just Em. You may know me by another name, and you may not. Either way, let's do a bit better than Michael Che and let past iterations of myself lie as what they were. The power of a deadname is two-pronged: the compassion with which I honor the person I used to be and an aggressor's theft of that power, taking it as their own to manipulate. While it may continue to exist outside of my control, the reclamation of my deadname is mine alone to choose, and it is never anyone else's punchline.

undecided
by jessica bensimhon

Four Mules crack wrestling preseason rankings

Standouts determined to dominate the country

By Samantha Brenner
Staff Writer

Prior to their season starting, the wrestling team has been shining bright. Four players on the Muhlenberg wrestling team have been honored during preseason meets: Jimmy Fratantoni '20, Austin Sherman '20, Dylan Schwartz '20 and Scott Schaeffer '20.

The four men were able to break records and put their abilities on display for all 'Berg wrestling fans to see.

The team has proved early on that they are here to win by building up their momentum. Coming off of a hot junior year placing at the NCAA regional, Schaeffer was just one of the four players on the team recognized for his preseason effort.

"Being recognized in the preseason rankings is an honor," stated Schaeffer. "It feels amazing that others finally are understanding the amount of hard work and dedication that our seniors have put forth into this program. Back when we got recruited by Muhlenberg and decided to come to school here, the talk about having anyone ranked on the team was out of the question. Now, the fact that we have four guys cracking the preseason rankings is just a huge compliment to how far this program has come along."

Over the past few years, the wrestling team has drastically changed, going from not even being ranked to breaking preseason expectations and ranking high.

Schaeffer and the other honorees felt proud of their success. "The guys in our room — including me, honestly — are honored for being in the rankings, but are not too concerned with it. We are not allowing ourselves to be typical and change our dedication to the main goal. Our goals are far beyond preseason rankings, and everything we will do this year will be towards getting on the podium in March. By getting better each day and striving to succeed in our goals, we will prevent the complacency that some programs reach after they established themselves. We will also help hold each other accountable because our room has a bond similar to a family, and this will create a dynamic to have us continue to get better throughout the season," Schaeffer added.

For Sherman, this ranking was irrelevant. "Rankings mean nothing to me. My confidence in our program, my teammates, and myself doesn't come from having a number next to my name in October," Sherman said. "It comes from knowing how many drops of blood, sweat and tears my Muhlenberg wrestling family has put in the last four years to develop this program to where we're at. Looking around during matches and seeing these guys having each other's backs through thick and thin is what makes it special here. This is a family beyond anything I've ever been a part of and having dedicated, talented guys like Scott Schaeffer, Dylan Schwartz [and] Jimmy Fratantoni in my corner reassures me of how capable and dangerous we are."

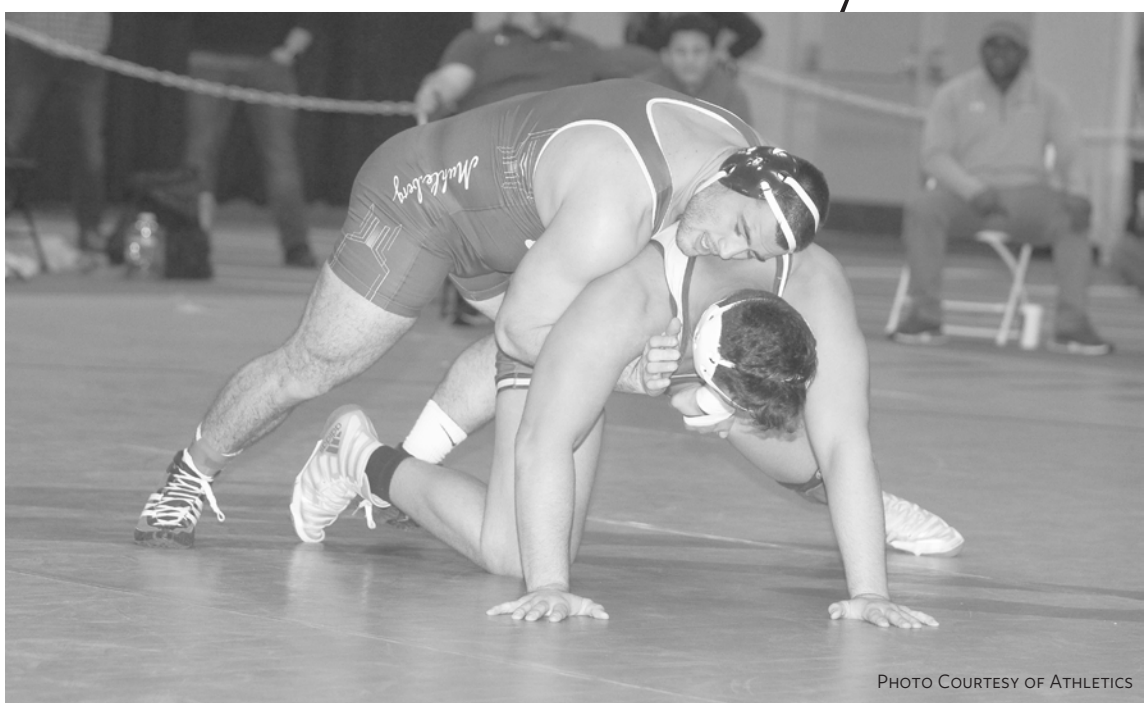


Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Scott Schaeffer '20 holds down his opponent during a 2018 match.

Sherman credits the wrestling community for supporting him, cheering him on and working with him in order to put forth his best work.

Just like Schaeffer, Sherman looks at the progression of the wrestling program as a positive factor.

"Compared to where we were in 2016, four of us being recognized early on is somewhat of a big deal," said Sherman. "I think a lot of people have a hard time remembering the ashes of a program we started with because it's been so long since we walked into a tournament and got smoked. My freshman year, we would be the first team to leave any given competition. Now, we consistently walk out with multiple tournament champs and placers. We're good enough. We believe it; our coaches believe it; I believe it, and so it doesn't matter if anyone else believes it. We work harder than anyone out there and we're going to smash the records we set last season and dominate throughout the country this year. Whatever it takes."

With unconditional support from coaches, Sherman uses the foundation that the team has built in order to push himself further and have the best final season he could.

Fratantoni applauds his coaches, praising them for pushing him and making him wrestle to his full potential. "I plan to continue putting in the extra work in the practice room and embracing the grind," said Fratantoni. "This program has experienced immense growth in the past four years I have been here, and I think Coach Mclean, Coach Drake, Coach Guiseppe and all the other interim coaches should get more credit. Muhlenberg wrestling made a statement last season, and our coaching staff is a huge proponent of that success."

For the preseason record, Fratantoni felt privileged in being recognized.

"I was pleased to see that I was placed in the 2019-2020 preseason rankings. After years of hard work and long practices, it is reassuring to see some recognition. However, these rankings show nothing but recognition for success," he stated.

The Muhlenberg wrestling team opens their season on Saturday, Nov. 9, traveling to King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania to fight in the Ned McGinley Invitational.

from **Football** page 12

Mules victory. Kober reminisced on the support he received from many former football alumni, and the eagerness to play well for the alumni inspires the team to play at their highest level.

"Beating Hopkins as a senior is probably my favorite memory to date in my Muhlenberg football career thus far."

"The support from the alumni was one of the driving factors that contributed to our eighth straight victory," said Kober. "I cannot tell you the amount of times that I have received a good luck text from a former teammate or Muhlenberg football alumni. Each and every player on our team recognized the rich history of Muhlenberg football and we strive to make all the alumni proud."

On the field, the Mules found success by generating big plays on offense and capitalizing on Johns Hopkins turnovers. During their first possession, running back James Diggs '21 took the ball 68 yards to the one-yard line setting up a Michael Hnatkowsky '21 touchdown run. A fumble recovery by Dante Lonardo '20 and a John Washington '22 interception were key defensive plays in the first half that led to touchdowns by Nick DeLucas '20 and Ryan Curtiss '20.

By playing well on both sides of the ball, the Mules went into the locker room at halftime with a comfortable 24-6 lead. In the second half, Johns Hopkins found better success on offense, but the Mules defense was able to hold their ground and did not let the Blue Jays cut too deep into their lead. Even after a 75-yard touchdown early in the second half and several long drives into Muhlenberg territory, the defense was able to hold their ground and help preserve a 31-16 victory.

Kober praises the defense's ability to battle adversity as well as the offense's success to dominate the time of possession and convert on key third downs. "From top to bottom, we played Muhlenberg defense, which thrives off the tenets of 'bend don't break.' There were points in the game when the Hopkins offense was moving the ball, but at the end of each drive we found a way to 'Dig In' and make the crucial stop when it needed to be made," said Kober. "I think it's important to note that our offense also did a great job methodically converting on third downs and winning time of possession, which kept [Johns Hopkins'] high-powered offense off the field. It was a great overall team effort."

This coming Saturday, the Mules travel to Gettysburg and look to stay among the top of the Centennial Conference standings. While the Mules look to win a Centennial Conference Championship and make another deep run in the NCAA Tournament, the Mules' main focus is on getting past Gettysburg. Daniel stresses that the Mules desire to continue their winning ways now and into the playoffs, but emphasizes the importance of not looking too far ahead in the schedule.

"Obviously, our goals are to keep winning and to make it as far as possible," said Daniel. "We believe we have the talent to compete with anybody. For now, though, we are focused on winning our next contest at Gettysburg."

The Mules look to extend their season winning streak to nine and clinch a Centennial Conference title at Gettysburg at 1:00 p.m. this Saturday, Nov. 9.

Mules find success at track & field championships

By Jordan Fisch
Contributing Writer

On Nov. 2, the men's and women's track teams returned to Gettysburg for the Centennial Conference (C.C.) Championships, looking to improve upon their performance last time they were at Gettysburg on Oct. 19. just two weeks ago.

Abby Dalton '22 and Jason Richwall '20 once again led the Mules. Both finished in thirteenth place and earned All-CC second team honors for their performances. This was Richwall's second time receiving the honor, while this was a first for Dalton, who ran a time of 23:04.9.

Richwall expressed his appreciation for the accolade and reflected upon his performance. "While I would have liked to place higher, I am honored to have made Second Team All-Conference again," said Richwall.

"Running the same time on that course in tougher conditions is something to be proud of," he added.

Running the course two weeks ago was certainly helpful going into the meet as was the push from both coaches and family. "I knew the course well, since this was my second time racing it. It also helped that my coaches and family members were there to give me encouragement," Dalton said.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Abby Dalton '22 runs in front of a crowd during the 2018-2019 season.

Familiarity with the course also played a huge role in Richwall's top 15 finish. "I feel like our experience racing on the Gettysburg course, as well as our training to peak at the right time, helped us race well against some tough competition we hadn't seen before this weekend," Richwall said.

While they may not have gotten a top 10 finish, both runners qualified for the Mid-East Regional, which will take place at Lehigh University on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Despite the poor weather conditions over the weekend, six out of seven Mules ran better times than they did at their last go-around at Gettysburg. Richwall, who won the Gettysburg Invitational, ran a 25:48.4, three-tenths of a second faster than his previous time. The women's side also showed improvement, with Stephanie Ng '20 lowering her time by 30 seconds.

"Running the same time on that course in tougher conditions is something to be proud of."

The coach's words seemed to be instrumental in the improvements of all the runners. "We were told to make small goals along the course to ensure we remained focused on the race, and we were also advised to stick with people who would help us run a faster time," Dalton explained.

Richwall completely agreed with Dalton about how the coaching leading up to the event was important to their eventual success at the Championships. "Coach and I both felt it would be good to simplify the race by running with the main pack and not worrying about pacing," said Richwall. "This was very helpful, especially early in the race."

Dalton is looking to ride this momentum and take another step in the next race. "I am hoping my hard work will pay off at the next race, Regionals," said Dalton. She is setting the bar high for herself, and with the way she has been able to perform in meets this year, this could be a great season for not only her, but for the entire track and field program.

Dalton is going in with the same positive mindset that she carries to all of her competitions. "I hope I continue putting in a lot of effort and improving how I run in each race," said Dalton.

Richwall is on the same page as his co-runner, moving on with lots of confidence. "I am extremely excited to run our regionals at what is pretty much our home course at Lehigh," said Richwall. "I ran countless races and workouts there over the years, and I can't wait to do everything I can to make it out to nationals for the first time."

Luckily for the Mules, Regionals will be held at a course that is familiar to both runners, which will surely play to their strengths.

Muhlenberg Track and Field are primed for success on Nov. 16, and with great training and a supporting cast in their coaches, the sky's the limit for these runners at Regionals.

Men's soccer season concludes

Following a 2-1 victory, Mules reflect and anticipate Fall 2020

By Noah Brill
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men's soccer team ended its year on a positive note, winning a 2-1 contest against Washington College on Nov. 2. While many things this season did not end up going the way the Mules had hoped, coming up with a victory on senior day was a fitting way to honor the team's 10 graduating members' storied careers and unrivaled commitment to their athletic endeavors.

The team's absence from the postseason comes as a shock to many, particularly because of the way they dominated opponents during non-conference games at the beginning of the year, starting off 6-0-1, including a 10-0 whalloping of Centenary.

"We were extremely confident and unified throughout these games, which is why we had success. But once conference play came around, the team seemed to lack a sense of urgency for the full 90 minutes," Pete Luther '20 noted, reflecting on the group's inability to strike while the iron was hot.

Luther also voiced his frustration about the team's helplessness on the field relative to the fire and fury they had in practice and throughout team workouts. "We would go into each match with a solid gameplan, but our problem was that we weren't properly adapting to the flow of the game, and we slowly lost sight of how we were going to see games out. Having such a talented and deep team, it's perplexing that we constantly allowed our opponents to dictate the pace of the match," Luther explained.

Although their record, 9-6-2, appears less than stellar, it reflects neither the work put in by the team since last offseason nor the results of the season as a whole, especially given that plenty of games came down to calls and botched plays that could easily be considered trivial in the moment.

"I thought that many things did not go as we had hoped, but at the same time, the year was not a complete disappointment," Sebastian Leyes '23 said about his inaugural collegiate season. "Obviously making the Centennial Conference playoffs was one of our goals, but many of the games that we lost were close games that came down to a single counter-attack, a bad call or an unnecessary foul," he added.

One large contributor to the team's win-loss mark was the fact that they seemed to have a difficult time against conference opponents, having won only two of their nine matches.

"In order for Muhlenberg to take the next steps to perform better in conference, the team needs to show more consistency on and off the field. We faced tough opponents with good results out of conference, which we failed to do in conference," goaltender Raymond Leto '20 reflected as he makes his way out and his teammates prepare to turn their focus on the year to come.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Pete Luther '20 drives the ball down the field against Gettysburg on October 12.

The Mules have big things ahead for them, and with some fine tuning, they will certainly be a force to be reckoned with come Fall 2020.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

The Mules, seen here charging out onto the field, extended their win streak to eight games with a 31-16 victory over Johns Hopkins.

Mules Remain Undefeated Through Family Weekend

‘Berg football picks up eighth straight win in tough battle with Johns Hopkins

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the Muhlenberg football team kept its perfect season intact with a 31-16 victory over Johns Hopkins. Beating the Blue Jays is a tremendous accomplishment for the Mules, as they ended an eight-game losing streak against the powerful Centennial Conference foe and have moved one step forward to clinching their first outright Centennial Conference Championship since 2008.

Since the beginning of the season, the Muhlenberg vs. Johns Hopkins game has been highly anticipated, as both teams have finished at the top of the conference standings in recent years. The game has major implications for both the Centennial Conference Championship and postseason play. Linebacker Mickey Kober ‘20 stated that beating Johns Hopkins is a monumental moment for his career as a Mule. “Beating Hopkins as a senior is probably my favorite memory to date in my Muhlenberg football career thus far,” Kober explained. “There is so much tradition that goes into this game, and it is always circled on the schedule by both teams. I feel as though all the hard work that the Class of 2020 has put in finally paid off. Going into the game, Coach Milne reminded us that Hopkins was the only Centennial Conference team that we had not beaten in our career. So, going out and getting the win made it that much more special for all of us.”

Maintaining an undefeated record and ending a long losing streak against the Blue Jays played an important role in Saturday’s victory, but playing in front of a large Parents’ Weekend crowd at Scotty Wood Stadium also played a pivotal role in the win.

“It meant the world to me to be able to win such a big game in front of my friends and family.”

Wide receiver Mitch Daniel ‘21 reflected on the significance of having his family and friends watching the victory from the bleachers. “It meant the world to me to be able to win such a big game in front of my friends and family. I’m so grateful for them,” Daniel said.

The large and enthusiastic Scotty Wood Stadium crowd also was a motivating factor for the entire team. Kober explained the significance of playing in front of a packed home crowd.

“Scotty Wood Stadium is always an awesome place to play, but when the bleachers are packed, it makes the atmosphere electric,” Kober said. “I believe that the fans had a huge impact on the game in terms of cheering and motivating our team to play their absolute best. This Family Weekend was the most amount of people that I saw on [Muhlenberg’s] campus at one time. The campus was teeming with Muhlenberg spirit.”

Beating Johns Hopkins and maintaining a perfect record comes from hard work and preparation before the season even began. “Our eight straight victories are due to hard work and dedication not just over the past couple of weeks, but in the offseason as well. We have worked for this,” Daniel continued.

Understanding the context of Muhlenberg football and its rivalry against Johns Hopkins was another driving force for the

see Football page 10

Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Nov. 8-12

Men’s Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Moravian
Friday, Nov. 8 @ 7:00 p.m.
Bethlehem, PA

Football
Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg
Saturday, Nov. 9 @ 1:00 p.m.
Gettysburg, PA

Women’s Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Salisbury
Saturday, Nov. 9 @ 2:00 p.m.
Salisbury, MD

Men’s Basketball
Muhlenberg vs DeSales
Tuesday, Nov. 12 @ 7:00 p.m.
Center Valley, PA

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 9
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Nicolas Calá '21 cooks up a comic that packs a punch.

read more on 9

NEWS

On the morning of Nov. 9, students in the dining hall were in for a rude awakening when a falling ceiling tile ushered in a flood.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Photo Courtesy of Marco Calderon

MDA's annual show, *Moving Stories*, featured beautiful dances which were choreographed and performed by Muhlenberg students.

read more on 5

OP/ED

In this age of mass media, independent voices are struggling to be heard. Read our take on the premiere of Disney+, the latest conglomerate streaming service.

read more on 8

SPORTS

The women of 'Berg basketball started the 2019-2020 campaign off right with a statement win over Salisbury, 80-66.

read more on 10

Listening.

The first Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival provides a platform for stories not often heard.

read more on 7

Karly McCloskey // The Muhlenberg Weekly

Celeste Samson '22 paints her portion of a triptych portrait as Betta Malagon '22 and Tatiana Lovera '20 move about the creative space at the Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival on Saturday, Nov. 9.

Women and gender studies summit unites faculty and students

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Staff Writer

On Nov. 7, 'Berg's campus hosted The Women's and Gender Studies Summit. The conference provided both students and faculty the opportunity to sit down and discuss their work pertaining to women's, gender and sexuality studies. The summit was not exclusive to Women's and Gender Studies minors and majors, as faculty and students from varying fields and subjects came to represent their current research and/or advocacy work.

Featured faculty members and students from clubs and associations like the Feminist Collective (FemCo), Voices of Strength and the Muhlenberg Trans Advocacy Coalition (MTAC) also came out to participate in the dialogue.

The summit consisted of two events, a "Meet & Greet" and roundtable discussion. The former gave students the chance to learn more about certain courses being offered for the Spring 2020 semester; it also connected students who share an interest in gender and sexuality. The roundtable discussion worked to spread word of faculty research regarding the ideals of the summit.

"'Mobilizing Rage/Making Change: Suffrage and Beyond' was a roundtable in which a variety of professors across the campus showcased work they were doing that was related to the theme of women organizing or working collectively," elaborated English Professor and Director of the Women's and Gender Studies program, Dr. Francesca Coppa.

"I think that this panel should happen every year."

The work explored was extensive, touching upon several courses of study.

"Jacqueline Antonovich talked about the complex legacy of the suffragist movement, including the ways in which it used white surpremacist and eugenicist ideologies," explained Coppa. "Crystal Adams talked about her work with female care professionals, and Elizabeth Nathanson talked about Ruth Bader Ginsberg memes on the internet as indications of intergenerational feminist solidarity. Kiyaana Cox-Jones gave an inspiring talk about her devotion to uplifting women of color at Muhlenberg and the ways in which she has worked to make her grandmother proud and fulfil the hard work of generations past. Kate Richmond talked about the ways in which psychology focuses too much, and wrongly, on the individual — self-care, self-help — to deal with large societal problems like racism and sexism. She asked us to consider what collective care, collective help, might look like. Lastly, I talked about the Archive of Our Own as an example of feminist HCI — human/computer interaction — and talked about the power women can have when they work together in networks on the internet."

Coppa is a co-founder of Archive of Our Own (AO3) which recently won a Hugo Award for its excellence in science-fiction literature; the website is a nonprofit and noncommercial domain that provides a base for all fandoms.

Both faculty and students who attended the conference attested to its importance.

"I already knew that I wanted to take some Women['s] and Gender studies classes, but it was nice to put faces to the names I saw on Capstone," said Asherde Gill '20. "I appreciated getting this opportunity to hear more about the classes that they will be teaching in the spring. I think that this panel should happen every year."

"The talks were great, and then afterwards we extended the mics to students and invited them to talk about the work that they're doing: helping victims of sexual violence, educating about healthy relationships and orga-

see **Women** page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, November 4

Check the Welfare - 3:04 p.m.
Report to locate student in Brown Hall, contact made with no further incident.

Point of Information - 4:00 p.m.
Report of theft of sign on Front Drive. Sign later returned.

Tuesday, November 5

Found Property - 8:22 p.m.
Report of found laptop in Center for the Arts. Item later returned to owner.

Wednesday, November 6

Lost Property - 11:53 a.m.
Report of lost chair in Seegers Union.

Panic Alarm - 3:26 p.m.
Report of panic alarm in Hillel House, 1st floor. Individual accidentally pushed alarm.

Injured Student - 3:28 p.m.
Report of injured student in Back Drive. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Thursday, November 7

Fire Alarm - 9:16 a.m.
Report of fire alarm from cooking in South Hall. System silenced and reset.

Point of Information - 5:13 p.m.
Report of theft of newspapers, investigation to continue.

Harassment - 7:03 p.m.
Report of harassment in Prosser Hall, individuals spoken to, investigation to continue.

Disruptive Conduct Report Violation - 9:00 p.m.
Report of disruptive conduct in Seegers Union dishwashing room. Individuals identified and spoken to with no further incident.

Friday, November 8

Suspicious Person - 4:45 a.m.
Report of suspicious person in Seegers Union. Individual identified and spoken to with no further incident.

Injured Student - 11:04 a.m.
Report of injured student in Martin Luther Hall. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Suspected Marijuana Odor - 10:24 p.m.
Report of smell of marijuana in Brown Hall. Areas checked with nothing noted.

Saturday, November 9

Sick Student - 1:22 a.m.
Report of a sick student in Martin Luther Hall. Student refused further treatment or transport.

Fire Alarm - 10:02 a.m.
Report of fire alarm in Prosser Hall. Upon arrival, no cause could be

Farm to Table Restaurant Night
Enjoy a 4-course meal in the Hoffman House on November 19th! Learn about the farm to table process from local farmers & taste their fresh ingredients!
When: November 19
Meet & Greet: 5 PM
Dinner: 6 PM
Where: Hoffman House
Dining dollars, 'Berg bucks, cash or credit
Muhlenberg College Dining
Limited Availability | Sign Ups Required:

Collapsed ceiling makes a splash in Seegers

By Sydney Coplin
Managing Editor

Roommates Alex Bak '22 and Sarah Zulewski '22 were enjoying a rather normal Saturday morning breakfast in the dining hall last weekend. It was about 10:15 a.m., early enough that the conversations were just the right amount of peculiar, but late enough that they were not the only ones in the room. As the pair were deep into a conversation about furbies, they were suddenly interrupted by an unexpected and startling sound.

"We heard a noise kind of like cracking coming from the swipes, and I thought they were setting up some food by the door like they sometimes do," recounted Zulewski.

Bak also described the noises as sounding like "running water or a sizzling fire."

"But then we heard a loud crash and the sound of rushing water, and I saw people getting up and moving towards the entrance to the swipes," continued Zuleswki. "Alex got up to get a better view but I could see it all perfectly: gushing water from the ceiling and a large pool forming on the surrounding carpet below."

Upon seeing the flooding, the roommates decided to put their dishes away and try to leave the dining hall as soon as possible. They noticed that water had also been dripping right in front of the dish return, so they stepped to the side.

"All in all, it was a very eventful morning."

They described how many of the students, themselves included, began to take out their phones and document the scene.

"Just before Alex started taking a Snapchat video of the whole event, another large chunk of ceiling tile fell right where Alex and I had been standing moments before as we returned our dishes," explained Zulewski. "So that could have been real bad if we hadn't moved over that couple feet."

Hector Chen '23 also witnessed the impromptu waterfall and proceeded to record it on his phone.

The video, captured in slow motion, shows a tile falling from the ceiling outside of the dining hall, releasing even more water into the already overflowing bucket.

As the tile falls, it triggers an even larger splash of water, continuing to flood the space.

"[It was] lucky no one's beneath that [tile]," Chen said, commenting on the danger of the incident.

While nobody was directly under the tile, Connor Baker '22, who was exiting the dining hall at the time, is seen in the video standing directly next to the falling tile.

"It was a weird experience of seeing it," explained Baker. "I was very confused about when I started feeling wet, and then I looked up and saw the ceiling leaked. It was a surprise to me because I have never done or seen anything like that. I decided to watch it for a while and then left to do work."

While the sound of the running water and falling tiles was loud for dining hall visitors, Eva Nelson '20, who was sitting in GQ at the time, noted that she could not hear it from the other side of Seegers and was only informed of the situation through a text from a friend.

Jim Bolton, Director of Plant Operations, provided insight into the nature of the circumstances.

"With our HVAC [Heating Ventilation and Cooling] mechanical contractor, we have a very detailed PM [Preventative Maintenance] system in place," Bolton explained.

Preventative Maintenance refers to checking belts, motors and fluids, as well as filter replacement and cleaning coils.

"Unfortunately, when you are dealing with mechanical systems, breakdowns do occur," he added.

The system has since been controlled, though stains from the water damage can still be seen on the ceiling.

"All in all, it was [a] very eventful morning," reflected Zulewski.

Meghan Coyle // The Muhlenberg Weekly

From **Women** page 1

nizing for reproductive justice," explained Coppa. "I am hoping to build [a] community among those who are interested in issues of women, gender or sexuality at Muhlenberg and for the community to realize how much wonderful work and how many interesting opportunities we have here."

In past years, this community has struggled to gain traction due to students seeking out Women's and Gender Studies as a minor later in their college career. If summits like this one continue to occur on a regular basis across campus, students are more likely to be exposed to opportunities relating to women, gender and sexuality early on.

"Women's and Gender Studies is an interesting minor in that it's one that students tend to come to backwards and late in their academic careers. Often a student might take three or four courses focused in gender or sexuality before realizing, 'Hey, I think this is a theme!' So that makes it hard to plan a program or to form community: a lot of times we have students declaring their minors as seniors!" explained Coppa.

There are multiple courses currently being offered in a number of disciplines that focus on the fundamental themes of the summit. Dr. Coppa and her colleagues encourage anyone who is interested to reach out and get involved with whatever topic speaks to them.

"The other thing — a great thing — is that we have courses on women, gender and sexuality all over campus: from Psychology of Women (Psychology) to The Birds and the Bees (History) to Music and Gender (Music) to Images of the New Woman (German) or Black Women Writers (English/Africana Studies) or Neurobiology of Sex Differences (Neuroscience) or Queer Performance (Theatre) to Gender, Politics and Policy (Political Science.) We're everywhere — but we can also be all over the place. This is why it's important to have community events and strong, open lines of communication," said Coppa.

Journalist Gil Hoffman visits campus

Reporter gives talk on Israeli politics

By Laura Schwarz
News Editor
Reporting by Elle Holzhauer

Gil Hoffman, the chief political correspondent and analyst for The Jerusalem Post, visited Muhlenberg's Miller Forum for a Nov. 7 talk sponsored by Hillel called "Red State, Blue State and the Jewish State: an Insider's Look at America's Impact on the Future of Israel and the Middle East." Hoffman is described by his Jerusalem Post bio as being "well-connected to Israeli and Palestinian leaders" and having "interviewed every major figure across the Israeli political spectrum."

In his talk, Hoffman explained how Israel's government, a parliamentary democracy with a legislative branch called the Knesset, functions. He especially focused on the recent 2019 elections in September and April, after which lawmakers were unable to form a government.

"In Israel we have twenty nine parties running our election in September, which was down from forty parties that ran in April," explained Hoffman. "Nine parties got in and got the minimum number of votes ... about 140,000 votes, which was a record low. No one party's ever gotten a majority of the vote, which makes it very hard to govern."

Hoffman also discussed the fraud and bribery charges plaguing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, as well as the possibility of another election if a government is not formed soon.

Audience members had mixed responses to the event and its relevance to the talk's title.

"Based on the title, I thought it was going to be more [about] some kind of data and analysis of American feelings and actions towards Israel based on political affiliations," said Nesya Sloane '23. "It was mostly just his opinions, charming anecdotes and Jewish jokes with very few facts about anything."

> **"It was great to see that the event pulled people from both the Allentown and Muhlenberg community."**

"I didn't agree with all of his [opinions], but that's how it is sometimes," said Nesya Sloane '23. "There's a really wide range of Israeli journalists. I think he clearly knows the political system very well, which is good because that's his job. I have had experiences with Israeli journalists far more to the left and to the right than he is, so I think his opinions are in no way representative of his entire field. Some of the things he said in his talk and his answers during the Q & A definitely rubbed me the wrong way, but that's bound to happen in any presentation about Israel."

"He represented Israel in a very authentic way. In his review, he gave me a feeling of a messy-but-full-of-hope observation," commented Hillel Israel Fellow Talya Inbar. "He was very real about how complicated the politics are."

"While we are all human and all have opinions that are inherently going to appear in our everyday interactions, I believe that as an Israeli journalist, as the Chief Political Correspondent for the [Jerusalem Post], Mr. Hoffmann has a responsibility to the people to present Israel in an unbiased way to the best of his abilities, which I do not think he did," said Avital Kessler-Godin '22. "I was disappointed that he did not talk about Arab representation in the Knesset. His presentation lacked a multidimensional analysis of the political state in Israel and the relationships between Israel and the United States."

However, she explained, "I appreciated that he took everyone's questions and answered them thoughtfully. It was great to see that the event pulled people from both the Allentown and Muhlenberg community."

This past week in college news

Northwestern newspaper apology sparks outrage

After The Daily Northwestern published an editorial on Nov. 10 apologizing for reporting on a student protest outside a talk given by Jeff Sessions, the student journalists were met with a storm of criticism from professional journalists on social media and other outlets. The New York Times reported on Nov. 12 about how the paper's staff apologized for sharing photos of protestors on social media and for reaching out to students through the college's directory, actions many critics said were necessary and normal parts of a reporter's job.

San Diego State University suspends 14 fraternities after student's death

According to CNN and Fox 5 news (both reporting on Nov. 12), a student died after attending a fraternity event and falling off his bunk bed. He had been pledging Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, and at the time of his death six fraternities were already suspended and four were under investigation. Now, 14 of their fraternities have been suspended.

Arizona State University student found dead in "Greek Leadership Village"

KTAR News reported on Nov. 12 that the student's death is currently under investigation. The student was found in a residential hall that houses students that are part of Greek life at the College.

Radford University student newspaper stolen from newsstands by college employee

The Washington Post reported on Nov. 11 that an employee at Radford University in Virginia had been identified by campus police for stealing over 800 copies of the student newspaper, The Tartan. The issue that was stolen had a photo of a professor that had recently died on the cover and some faculty members found the photo upsetting, though the professor's widow had provided the photo to the paper.

ATO brother at Washington State University dies

CNN reported on Nov. 12 that the student's death may be alcohol related.

"The last thing one discovers in composing a work is what to put first."

- T.S. Eliot

Teaching through dance

Behind the scenes of *Moving Stories*

Photo Courtesy of Marco Calderon

Emi Giuseffi '21 and Jalil Robinson '22 dance in "Rusted Fiction" choreographed Lilianne Gering in *Moving Stories*.

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg's annual dance spectacular, *Moving Stories*, made its debut on campus on Thursday, Nov. 7. Additional performances were open to the college community on Friday, Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 9 with a 2 p.m. matinee and 8 p.m. show.With sold out shows and huge turnouts, *Moving Stories* truly had something for everyone to enjoy!

This year's *Moving Stories* comprised 12 original dance works choreographed and performed by Muhlenberg students in Baker Theatre, exploring a wide range of different themes. The student choreographers were Heather Downey '20, Heather Dutton '20, Greyson Gerdts '21, Lilianne Gering '21, Emi Giuseffi '21, Alex Goshert '20, Abigail Linnemeyer '20, Morgan Litzenberger '20, Hailey McMichael '21, Maura O'Reilly '20, Ashley Veglia '21 and Karlie Lynn Zabin '20. Choreographers were selected by a process that included submitting proposals, both oral and written, to dance faculty, who later chose the pieces they saw best fit for the *Moving Stories* stage. The dances touched on a plethora of themes, ranging from the disastrous effects of the environmental crisis to the meaning of family and home.

"I'm really proud of my dancers fellow choreographers, and their casts because this was one of the strongest concerts I've seen at Muhlenberg."

Sarah Koenig '23 described the show as "captivating" because of the emotion and athleticism that the dancers portrayed on stage. Contemporary, modern, tap and many more genres were included in the program, dazzling audiences. The personal setting of Baker Theatre was prime space, which allowed the performers to connect with the audience on a more intimate level through art.

"There was so much variety within the concert that made it enjoyable to watch all the way through," dancer and choreographer Heather Downey '20 emphasized. "I'm so thankful that Muhlenberg has given me so many opportunities to choreograph and express myself on stage during my four years here."

Downey choreographed the show's opening tap dance, "Spark Blaze Burst," as well as performing in "Drip and Drip and Drip and Drop," and "Rerouting." This is Downey's third *Moving Stories* performance, and in her free time, Downey also serves as the Co-Alumni Relations Chair on the Muhlenberg Dance Association (MDA). The MDA creates a close-knit, fun space for dancers on campus through community service and other events such as Danceworks, an informal dance concert inviting student performers to come and showcase their talent. Another dance event coming up is Dance Gallery in December, which allows choreographers studying Dance Composition to have their pieces performed.

"I have really loved moving and learning from older and experienced dancers as a freshman. I have learned so much in such a short period of time," performer Morgan Randall '23 expressed with excitement. "The community here is so welcoming and I have never felt like I've been in the wrong place. We all dance because we love to move and express ourselves; it's a really beautiful thing." Randall danced in the pieces "Synthwave" and "Chromatic Configuration" for this year's performance of Moving Stories.

"Chromatic Configuration" was choreographed by Morgan Litzenberger and was the finale of *Moving Stories*. The dance's mission was to experiment with different sounds in music and allow the audience to experience these sounds that they would not usually hear. Throughout the entirety of the piece, each dance move correlated with a specific musical sound, which translated over to audiences in a beautiful way. The dancers were clad in vibrant colors and this piece was a tasteful, refined conclusion to the show.

For veteran dancers like Downey, this particular iteration of Moving Stories stood out from the crowd. "I'm really proud of my dancers, fellow choreographers and their casts," Downey said, "because this was one of the strongest concerts I've seen at Muhlenberg."

Be sure to mark your calendars for December's Dance Gallery.

All Photos: Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Top left: Nora Hardee '22 manipulates yarn in "Treading Thread."
Top right: Zach Rabishaw '22 performs in *Woven Stories*.
Bottom right: Asherde Gill '20's interactive exhibit "Untitled" invites attendees to engage with art.
Bottom center: The cast of *Woven Stories* poses for a group picture.
Above: Tatiana Lovera '20's "Thank You" is displayed in the CA Galleria.
Center: August Walker '22 and Josh Brog '22 sing as Gwen Wilkie '20 and Max Kasler '20 accompany on piano.

Muhlenberg Faculty Reception:
Showcasing groundbreaking interdisciplinary research

By Danny Milkis
Staff Writer

One of the most important assets that makes a Muhlenberg education so unique is the level of expertise in the school's panel of faculty members. These educators are masters of their craft and, in many cases, are still actively engaged in groundbreaking work within the field they've chosen to pursue. This provides even more depth to the subject matter of the classes at this particular institution. With depth comes comprehension and understanding, and with those factors comes a better baseline for inspiration in the hope that students will make a difference in the same fields after seeing the work of this incredibly learned group of industry-leading professors.

A testament to the scholarship of the professors at 'Berg could be seen this past Thursday evening in the Trexler Library as a number of well-dressed individuals filed into the Level A Concourse for a reception celebrating the work of seven faculty authors.

As the reception went on, there was lively discussion between the contributors, as well as wine and hors d'ouvres being served on elegant tables. There was a healthy spread of ideas and separate passions within different disciplines and ways of thinking at every table at the reception, which made sense when considering the sheer amount of subject matter that was spanned by all of the books on display.

These educators ... are still actively engaged in groundbreaking work within the field they've chosen to pursue.

On a table in the back of Concourse A, guests could pick up pamphlets and even sample the books, if they so desired, from a copy of each of the seven volumes placed there. Inside of the pamphlets was a small blurb about the premise of the book, the research it was discussing and a bit more about the author and his or her background. Dr. Cartelli's pamphlet, for example, described more details about his interest in Shakespeare and its prevalence in today's society as a preface of sorts, drawing the prospective reader into a deep-dive of Cartelli's actual book later on.

Dr. Guerrero, author of *The Image of Elizabeth I In Early Modern Spain*, outlined a number of interesting discussion points on the subject of perspective and its role in how history is trans-

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Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival lends an ear to unheard stories

By Brooke Weber
Editor in Chief

As I walk around the main floor of Seegers Union, I find that the very nature of certain spaces has been altered. What was once the Light Lounge has become both a gallery and a studio – Tatiana Lovera '20's "Thank You" floats on mobile bulletin boards, the flash-soaked faces of young New Yorkers captured by Lovera's 35mm camera proudly proclaiming their right to exist. Along one wall, versatile creative Kelly Steltz '21, one of The Weekly's former Artists of the Week, methodically sketches a pair of hands from a reference taped to an upright board as a few passers-by stare, hypnotized; over the next day, these lonely hands will be joined on their canvas by many more of their kind, all revolving around the open petals of a flower. In Seegers 108, Nora Hardee '22 dons a red wig composed entirely of yarn. For hours, Hardee treads back and forth, threading bright red yarn from wall to wall, tying it around itself, snipping it short – occasionally, the artist spots a brave onlooker and ties them into the exhibit, too.

That's the thing about the Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival, a brand-new event generated by the Unchained Theatre Collective (UTC) and the Muhlenberg Theatre Association (MTA) held on Nov. 8 and 9: regardless of whether or not you'd consciously decided to attend, the festival made itself known to all who ventured out and about on campus during its two days of operation. It was held in places students need to be, the places where they couldn't just look away or avoid what they thought they didn't want to see. The festival understood its own worth and subtly ensured that every single student at 'Berg did, too.

"It was actually Jordan Hill ['20]'s idea," said Sophia Echevarria '21, one of the festival's organizers. "He came to me and Dalissa [Duran '21] – Dalissa's the president of Unchained – and he brought two of his E-board members, and it was the five of us that met together last semester, actually, in the spring. We planned it a little more this semester. So it was the five of us, and we wanted to find a way to combine UTC and MTA ... but also highlight marginalized voices through art on campus all at the same time."

This focusing ethics of collaboration and diversity was evident in every aspect of the festival – from interactive art exhibits to live paintings to student-written song cycles, many different artistic media were represented. This included some art-focused clubs, like 'Berg's as-yet-unnamed slam poetry group, that have only found their feet on campus within the past few months.

"This has been a passion project of mine since the beginning of this year. I said I needed a hobby, and this is it," said Clarissa Shirley '22, co-founder of the slam poetry group. We spoke just after Shirley's group had completed its inaugural performance, during which four student poets bared their souls right there in the Red Door for an entire audience of festivalgoers to hear. Shirley's own compelling performances saw the poet through ecstatic joy, dizzying love, deep despair and haunting victory as she told her own stories, the crowd listening and snapping along, rapt.

"[Slam poetry] was created mostly in the 1970s during the civil rights movement, and original spoken word was put to poetry," Shirley explained. "You can find poems yourself that you really relate to, and you actually start to discover stuff about yourself and your identity through it. I really wanted to share that with Muhlenberg[′s] campus, because I feel like ... a lot of times, different identities don′t get the opportunity to share their identity in a performance space that′s mainstream in our culture here at Muhlenberg."

Many of these identities were certainly on full display throughout the event, particularly on its second day, when the festivities moved into the Center for the Arts (CA). Here, artists of different backgrounds, experience levels and interests had the chance to share their work side by side. Asherde Gill '20 crafted an interactive art exhibit filled with self-taken photos, scissors, sticky notes and books that were meant to be opened and read (*Akira, Arts of Living on a Damaged Planet and Black Woman and Other Poems / Mujer negra y otros poemas*, in case you were wondering). Gill's exhibit could be wandered through as audience members enjoyed the musical stylings of student songwriting duo Max Kasler '20 and Gwen Wilkie '20, whose song cycle *Woven Stories* was performed by an array of the pair's fellow students in the CA Galleria. The song cycle centers around LGBTQ+ love and life experiences, featuring songs about adoption, accepting and rejecting families, living one's life unapologetically and more. Though the song cycle has been performed on campus in years past, this time around, the composers were able to step into uncharted territory.

"[The festival] gave us a cool opportunity to audition Woven Stories, which we haven′t gotten to do before," Wilkie said. "And so we got to have a completely new array of people, which was so awesome and kind of gave it all a different kind of meaning ... I think everyone was really into it. After, somebody came up to me and was crying, and they were like, 'Thank you for writing music that I can really connect to and that I think really speaks to who I am as a person.' Just all positive. All positive."

"The Muhlenbubble is one of those things where it′s just perpetuated by the students and encouraged by the structure of Muhlenberg in itself."

Upon descending the CA's sloping walkway, one couldn't help but spot the mural being painted by ABC, the collective name coined by three Muhlenberg students originally hailing from Queens, New York City: Avital Zemel '22, Betta Malagon '22 and Celeste Samson '22. Accompanied by a taped-up sign encouraging onlookers to "Ask Us What's Up," these sophomores completed a trio of supersized self-portraits whilst exchanging laughing glances and informative discussions with those who began conversations with these living, breathing artists whose work, too, was coming alive before their very eyes.

"Avital, Betta and I are three different people who ... come from the same place, but we have very different ethnic backgrounds," Samson said of the project's origins. "We also came from New York to here, which is, like..."

"A big shift," Zemel supplied.

"It′s a big shift." Samson continued. "We were just like, 'What is a good way to put our similarities and differences in conversation with each other?' We had the idea of painting ourselves and then items behind us ... items that make us feel represented, make us feel at home, make us feel secure, safe, protected, validated in our own identities, because your experience here is very different based on who you are. This was just sort of a way to start conversations about that, because obviously we′re not the only people on the planet."

Certainly not – the artists, aware of this fact, placed a pile of blank, white paper next to their own workspace, inviting audience members to take part in a shared artistic experience that might not just blur the line between artist and viewer, but also between Muhlenberg community members of different experiences and backgrounds.

"Diversity is tackled in a very different way here than it is back home [in] Queens," Samson mused. "I came here and like my O-Group Leader warned me, 'The Muhlenbubble is real' ... the Muhlenbubble is one of those things where it′s just perpetuated by the students and encouraged by the structure of Muhlenberg in itself. At first, you kind of blame yourself for staying on campus, and then you realize that campus is built so that you never have to leave."

Shirley hoped that the weekend would help attendees bridge that gap between the comfortable and the real.

"A lot of times, festivals like these, they′re for the white person to feel better about themselves because they′re like, 'I′m going to this,'" Shirley said, "and I hope they go in with a more open mind than that and see, 'I′m here to learn, not to leave with a good feeling.' Sometimes you don′t leave this kind of stuff with a good feeling, and that′s important."

Though the feelings imparted by every event at the Marginalized Voices Theatre Arts Festival weren't all warm and fuzzy, there was no shortage of love and light to be found wherever the festival lead. Small smile on the face of a nervous but proud poet, a ringing note left floating in the air by a satisfied singer, the joyful limbs of an attendee voguing to the music from a pop-up art exhibit. These were the signs of beauty and progress evoked by this necessary festival, the moments, though fickle, that will last forever in the minds of those who can now point to a piece of art they've seen celebrated at this institution and say, 'That's me.'

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mitted through education. "The premise is to look for the first time into the image of the queen in Spain during the 16th and 17th century ... it's the first scholarship on the topic," Guerrero said. "I hope it's going to open the ground for all of my colleagues studying the same subject to see all sides of the argument." Dr. Guerrero went on to describe the common issue of historical distortion based on Americanization and how the values of a liberal arts education do not fall in line with the principle that history is interpreted and told by those in power. "There was basically a lot of work done from the English perspective and not the Spanish perspective, and Spain was the main power in the area," Guerrero explained. "It was kind of a paradox that the people actually living there weren't the ones opening up this dialogue."

In addition, the subject of futurism and how the world may someday look is a pressing subject in popular culture and is detailed by Dr. Niesenbaum, in *Sustainable Solutions: Problem-Solving for Future Generations*, Niesenbaum explained "The premise of my book is that we hear only the bad news about the state of the world and the human condition, and this piece offers a positive outlook on the direction the world could logically be headed in." Niesenbaum advocates for this subject because he is passionate about this cause and this field of study. "I teach in this area and wanted to offer hope and possibility," Niesenbaum said. "I wanted to offer opportunities to those who are unaware of the scientific truth about the state of our world and what they can do to help."

Dr. Cartelli, author of *Reenacting Shakespeare in the Shakespeare Aftermath: The International Turn and Turn to Embodiment*, explained that Shakespeare's work can be a societally moving medium of theatre when modified to properly fit the society in which it is being performed. In his words, "An interest in avant-garde experimental theatre production was primarily what motivated me, as well as years of watching really boring, straight Shakespeare productions."

He explains that theatre students in particular played a role in experimenting, talking about and screening some of his theories on this subject. Dr. Cartelli shared that Muhlenberg student research comprised an entire chapter of his book.

All in all, the work done by these faculty members is truly inspiring and makes it especially important to recognize the role that their groundbreaking work has on the valuable experience acquired through an education at Muhlenberg.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Jeff Goldblum is cancelled

How do we move on?

By Will Wamser
Op/Ed Editor

I don't know how to start this article. I don't know how to talk about this. I am not lying when I say that this is the most difficult article I have ever had to write. For those who haven't heard the news, Jeff Goldblum is cancelled. In a recent interview with the British newspaper the i, Jeff Goldblum said this about Woody Allen: "I would consider working with him again, until I learned something more (negative)," Woody Allen being the man who certainly molested his adoptive daughter Dylan Farrow. Woody Allen is a terrible disgusting person, but that is not the point of this article. The point of this article is that Jeff Goldblum is cancelled; how do we keep going?

I don't think I'll ever be able to express what an amazing influence and role model Jeff Goldblum has been to me throughout my life. Growing up into now, I modelled who I am after them. They were always the absolute funniest. Jeff Goldblum was always good for a laugh. But it was more than just being funny; their jokes were often prompts for humor as well. Jeff Goldblum would say something funny and I could always build from there and develop the joke, which did a lot in making me feel funny. I also love movies, tv shows and podcasts. And all of my favorites have strong associations with Jeff Goldblum. And anytime I saw something new, I went straight to them for their opinion and thoughts. It's been hard to watch new movies and listen to new podcasts knowing I can't have their thoughts. I can't share it with them and they can't share anything with me again.

Jeff Goldblum also helped me to enjoy bad things too. They introduced me to so many terrible movies that I love and that are so much fun. So much of who I am came from Jeff Goldblum. Would I be the leftist democratic socialist I am without their influence? Would I be using writing to express myself and grow? Would I be as thoughtful about what actions I took and words I used? Would I want to make the same difference in the world that I do? I don't know, but it doesn't feel like it.

It's not like I didn't know this was a possibility. I knew the situation. I know who Jeff Goldblum is. I know he is an old, rich white man. I know that means that cancellation is a possibility. I used to make myself think about what if this happened, just in case it did, in the hopes that I would be more prepared. But you can't be prepared for something like this. And it doesn't go away. This is the world we live in now. This one interview made my entire world something different, but nothing has changed. I feel like I want to tell everyone.

How can people act normal when I have lost someone who meant everything to me? When people get cancelled you hear that there has to be this "new normal." The problem right now is that any feeling of normal makes me sick. Normal has never felt so strange. It is really hard when your entire world stops, but everyone else is exactly the same.

I know what we have to do. We have to just keep going. Keep moving and working through it. There is nothing to do about it: Jeff Goldblum is cancelled and that is our reality. But it doesn't seem to be helping. I'm just going forward with no end in sight because I know that I have to because I know the world isn't going to stop to let me deal with this cultural loss. But it's so hard when nothing feels worthwhile anymore. I'm supposed to write a paper about a poem I don't care about? Why should I waste my time? It's within moments like these where you have to slow down and evaluate what you are doing. A lot of what I'm doing feels like nothing. But it's something. And they say that's good.

There is nothing to do about it: Jeff Goldblum is cancelled and that is our reality.

I feel like there is no way to end an article like this, there is no take away to be had. I can say just keep going and you just have to move forward, but it doesn't help to hear. If anyone has any advice for continuing forward, just let me know. But I know there is nothing to say. Jeff Goldblum was truly a light in this world. They touched everyone they came in contact with because they cared. The world is a little dimmer now that Jeff Goldblum has been cancelled. All I can do is hold onto the time we had and the things I learned and hope to be the light they were for someone else. I miss you.

Mouse trap!

Editorial

Since everyone is talking about the new Disney+ streaming service, we thought we'd look at some of the negatives that come from the increasing monopolization of media.

With Disney's acquisition of Fox earlier this year, the number of media conglomerates in the U.S. dropped to three. While TimeWarner, which owns DC, Warner Bros., AOL, HBO and the like, and Comcast, which is the parent company of NBCUniversal (Dreamworks, Universal Studios, NBC, etc.), are still actively competing with Disney, and Fox Corp. retains ownership of the Fox network (in accordance to laws restricting the ownership of broadcasting networks), the amount of media owned by a single company is absurd. You might be thinking that there is still some diversity in streaming services even with Disney+, but you forget that Disney owns the 60 percent majority stake in Hulu. The variety in media platforms keeps shrinking. This is without even mentioning all that Apple, Alphabet, Inc. (Google's parent company) and Yahoo! own, which is a whole separate can of worms.

When all of mainstream media is owned by a few corporations, it is the elites owning those corporations that decide the cultural narrative. Especially nowadays as people are becoming more disenfranchised with the ultra-wealthy, why wouldn't the elites owning these companies do what they can to change that? They have the power to do so because they have the power to tell us what is popular, and they choose what we have the ability to watch.

Disney's ownership of Fox should have brought up greater concerns regarding the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890, but seeing as it was approved regardless, the biggest concern now should be censorship. With a single company owning so much media, we should all be thinking about what that means for the stories being told and who is telling them. There has been a lot of discussion around what Disney+ is including on their platform.

As of right now, the famously racist Disney film *Song of the South* is not included on Disney+, but, despite the push from many fans, *Dumbo* still includes the scenes with racist depictions of crows, including a character named Jim Crow. This is worrisome because if Disney+ overtakes the streaming market, then it will be solely this megacorporation deciding what is or is not appropriate. By including those scenes from *Dumbo*, Disney is implicitly endorsing them. If Disney+ becomes the main online distributor for media, then they will get to set the standard of what is considered too offensive. Disney shouldn't be setting that standard.

Additionally, recent reports have arisen about Disney and other streaming services wanting to crack down on password sharing. The Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment, which Disney, Warner Bros., Netflix, Amazon and others are a part of, has stated that they will be searching for ways to prevent password sharing and are seeking to get the act categorized as piracy. This is absurd when looking at the ongoing streaming wars with companies constantly trying to cash in on streaming services — thus, consumers are forced to pay even more to subscribe to the ever-multiplying services or simply split the bill and share accounts with friends or roommates, something that these companies now consider to be a crime. These companies are holding onto the majority of media as they make it harder for people to actually see any of it without dishing out a pretty penny.

There is so much that goes into why Disney+ is disgusting that we don't have the time or space to really explore. A few examples include the way that Disney uses its fans as attack dogs, most recently seen when Disney fans went after Sony for pulling Spider-Man from the Marvel Cinematic Universe. This includes Disney-paid online influencers. Disney had to just sit back as their fans did the negotiating for them. The way that Disney+ and other streaming platforms are further complicating negotiations with the writers, directors and actors' guilds must also be considered. But none of this even acknowledges the biggest issue, which is the effect Disney+ will have on how people think about the way content is made.

Disney does not want you making shows. Disney doesn't want you making content. Any viewer you get is a viewer Disney isn't getting, and they know that. If all the media is coming from one place, it disenfranchises people from thinking that they can create their own content. The greatest irony of Disney is that one of the most prevalent messages across everything they own is that you can do anything whilst simultaneously ensuring that all you can do is listen to them.

Luckily, people continue to create. Social media platforms like Tumblr, Twitter and Instagram are filled with visual artists, writers, performers and more sharing the content that they've created. YouTube is home to free, professional quality webseries. Disney made their money on the adaptation of public domain works, whilst original independent content often does the same on their own terms.

Supporting independent creators is now more important than ever. It's why we at The Weekly highlight our Artist of the Week and encourage submissions to our Opinion section. It's why we're more dedicated than ever to remain an independent voice in an age of media increasingly dominated by the corporate mainstream.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Lo que el disparo en El Paso significa para el estudiante Latinx

By Karla Sagastizado
Contributing Writer

El 3 de agosto 2019 comenzó con un disparo de un AK-47 a las 10:30 de la mañana . El tirador, Patrick Crusius, tenía solo 21 años cuando entró a un Walmart en El Paso, Texas y mató a 22 personas. Según el gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott, el tiroteo en El Paso representó ″uno de los días más sangrientos″ en los Estados Unidos . Pero según el estudiante Latinx, el 3 de agosto representa el peligro que domina nuestra seguridad en este país y sirve como un recuerdo que nuestra identidad es una amenaza en los ojos de la supremacía blanca. Para el estudiante Latinx, la tragedia que ocurrió el 3 de agosto no comenzó con el sonido de un AK-47, sino con el manifiesto que Crusius publicó en el internet 20 minutos antes del disparo. Entre la retórica racista, el motivo de Crusius se mostró claramente cuando escribió,″ ″En general, apoyo al tirador de Christchurch y su manifiesto. Este ataque es una respuesta a la invasión hispana de Texas.″ Para el estudiante universitario Latinx, estas palabras son lo que hace vivir en campus, lejos de casa, lo más difícil. Estas palabras, aunque recientemente se escribieron, producen un sentimiento de miedo que reconocemos. El odio que escuchamos con el presidente Trump sobre los inmigrantes Latinx ha existido desde que nació nuestra existencia en los Estados Unidos. Aunque crecimos con amenazas de deportación y la separación de nuestra familia, estar unidos con nuestra familia nos dio esperanza. Sin embargo, para el estudiante de Latinx que vive lejos de casa, estar lejos de la familia es el factor más significativo que suscita preocupación y miedo por la seguridad de los seres queridos que no están cerca de nosotros. Estas son las preocupaciones que los estudiantes Latinx en Muhlenberg College tienen todos los días.

Entre las conversaciones que tuve con estudiantes Latinx sobre el tiroteo en El Paso, encontré que la mayoría de los estudiantes no se sintieron sorprendidos a escuchar noticias del crimen. CJ Funes, una estudiante en Muhlenberg del segundo año dijo “Muchos de los tiroteos que han estado sucediendo han sido perpetrados por hombres que son supremacistas blancos. No me sorprendió que esta comunidad fuera atacada”. Además de no estar sorprendida sobre el tiroteo contra la comunidad Latinx en el Paso, Funes afirmó que también no se sorprendió cuando escuchó la edad de Crusius. “Siento que tienes que ser criado de cierta manera donde la gente te deja pensar que está bien odiar a la gente. Su edad para mí sólo me llama la atención porque estoy a esa edad, y no estoy pensando en matar gente, pero no creo que sea sorprendente porque los niños están expuestos a este ambiente y piensan que está bien pensar de esa manera″, declaró Funes.

Ruby Ortiz ‘20 tuvo la misma perspectiva que Funes. En relación a su ansiedad sobre el peligro en que viven las comunidades Latinx, Ortiz dijo que el tiroteo “trajo mi miedo más al frente de mi cabeza, porque siempre ha estado allí”. Ortiz encontró que su ansiedad también tiene relación en los lugares donde se siente cómoda y segura. El tiroteo en El Paso no solo confirmó las suposiciones de Ortiz sobre el odio que pone las vidas de Latinos en peligro, sino que también determinó donde ella puede ir. Ortiz mencionó que la ansiedad donde ella se sintió en peligro comenzó unas semanas después del tiroteo. “Mi prima me invitó a una pijamada antes de que todos volviéramos a la universidad. Todos estábamos hablando de lo que sucede porque queríamos ir a Walmart a buscar algunas cosas, y al mismo tiempo seguimos escuchando rumores de que lo mismo estaba sucediendo alrededor de nuestra ciudad porque nuestra ciudad está muy poblada de comunidades Latinx. Teníamos miedo de que estuviéramos en un área que pudiera ser atacada″. Además de preocuparse por su comunidad en su ciudad natal, Ortiz también expresó una preocupación por las comunidades Latinx que viven en Allentown. La población de Allentown es aproximadamente mitad Latinx, un dato que atrae a muchos estudiantes Latinx a Muhlenberg. Sin embargo, con pegatinas que promovieron un grupo nacionalista blanco la semana pasada, es difícil ignorar que la ciudad latina de Allentown está dentro de un estado republicano que apoyó a Donald Trump durante las elecciones de 2016. Ortiz respondió que “Muhlenberg se ha convertido en mi casa, así que es difícil tener ese significado asociado a mi casa″.

¿Adónde vamos desde aquí? ¿Pueden estar sin peligro los estudiantes Latinx dentro y fuera del campus de Muhlenberg? Funes piensa que la lucha por la seguridad de la población Latinx en Los Estados Unidos comienza con educación. En respuesta al manifiesto de Crusius, que declaró una invasión Latinx en Texas, Funes dijo “Texas era originalmente México, así que ¿cómo está diciendo que estamos robando su tierra?”. Funes continuó a decir ″El racismo se debe a no ser educado. En las escuelas hablamos de ello, pero no siento que es un tema que los niños estén bien educados”.

Mientras seguimos siendo estudiantes universitarios, muchos estudiantes Latinx como yo, encontramos resistencia en la celebración de nuestra cultura. Comunidad Latinx, un club que habla sobre la identidad Latinx, continúa una resistencia contra la supremacía blanca en mostrar la opinión Latinx sobre los temas políticos con videos, canciones y películas en el Centro Multicultural. Pero para mí, encuentro mi resistencia con mi propia existencia.

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

I promise Pennsylvania has at least one good pizza place

By Katherine Dickey
Contributing Writer

Switchback Pizza Company is housed in a sunny yellow building next to the railroad, tucked just away from the rest of downtown Emmaus. The patio seating, dotted with cheery red umbrellas, is mostly closed up for the winter now, but, in summer, sitting at the wooden picnic tables as trains pass by feels like something out of a children’s storybook. Just inside the door, a kitchen with a large wood-burning stove and pale wooden work surfaces behind a short glass divider invites patrons to watch their food being made. The space is small, but feels larger from the huge windows along one side. Still, it fills up quickly with the heat from the stove and the chatter of diners sitting close together at small tables and counters.

As shown by their open kitchen, the team at Switchback cares about transparency. They focus on providing sustainably sourced and delicious food and all the local farms they buy from are listed on a chalkboard behind the register. The owners of Switchback, Marguerite Viola and Andrew Foreman, also grow a portion of the restaurant’s produce in garden beds at the restaurant and at their home.

Putting a focus on fresh and sustainable practices pays off in Switchback’s food. Switchback offers two sizes of each of their pizzas, a 10-inch, good for one hungry person, or a 12-inch, easier to share. At my most recent visit, I ordered the classic Margherita pizza: fresh mozzarella, tomato and basil. It is perfect in its simplicity, the raw tomato sauce is both tart and sweet, which is well complemented by the creamy fatty goodness of the patches of melted mozzarella. The crust has a crisp leopard-spotted outside and a beautifully puffy inside, and when I picked up a slice of my personal pizza, the tip slouched down toward the plate and I lost some sauce. The Neapolitan style of pizza is much softer than American (specifically New York) pizza, so it is often better to shove it into your mouth quickly than rely on the structural integrity of the slice.

Switchback Pizza Company also offers a variety of less traditional pizzas, from pepperoni and Veggie Lovers to a vegan option and some Switchback specials. They also work to offer seasonal options, like the Drunken Apple and Swine, which utilizes gorgonzola, apples flambeed in liquor and local sausage for a dish that was tasty, but a bit too rich and stinky for my tastes. The Green Tomato pizza was more up my alley, with fresh green tomato slices, mozzarella and thick-cut bacon, topped with grated cured egg yolk, which created contrast between fresh and smoky flavors, with a warm and almost nutty finish from the egg.

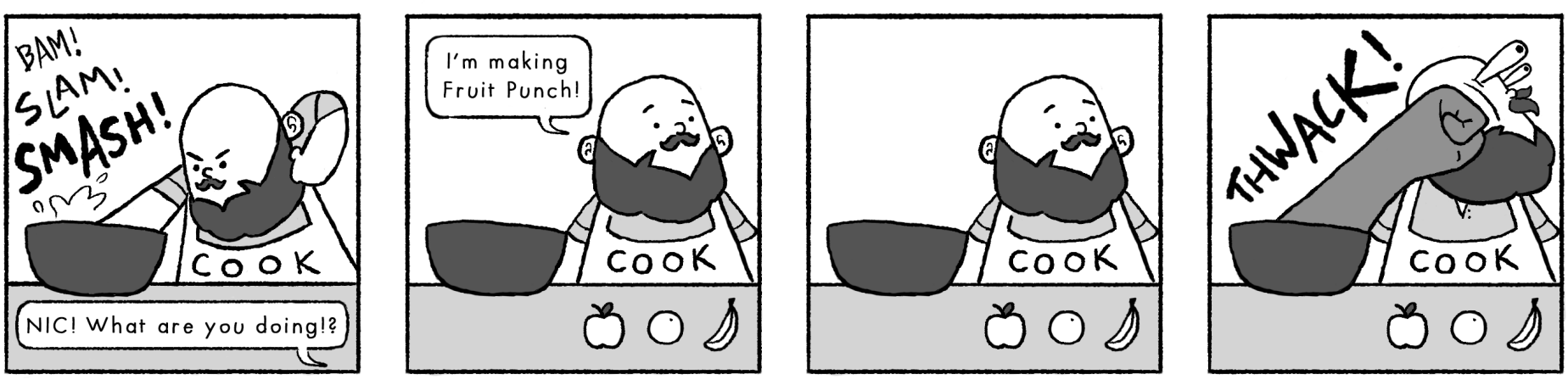
Be aware that Switchback’s small scope does mean that the later in the week you visit, the more likely that they’ll run out of ingredients for some specials and even some regular menu items, like for the red beet and burrata salad my friend ordered. However, because of my companion’s dietary restrictions, the chef improvised a similar salad, burrata, arugula and apple and garlic puree that she said was delicious, so their small scope also results in increased attention on customer interaction.

At just $9, the 10-inch Margherita is one of the cheapest items on the menu, though the whole menu is well-priced for college students, with entrees ranging from $7-13, and up to $16 for certain 12-inch pies. Desserts and special drinks may also push up pricing, but the cheesecake is fluffy and sweet and totally worth it, and my mom says great things about the chocolate tahini tart.

Switchback Pizza Company is open Tuesdays to Saturdays at 525 W. Jubilee Street in Emmaus, PA. It is BYOB (though they also have a rent-a-growler program with the brewery across the tracks).

NO PUNCH-BACKS

By Nicolas Calá



Women's basketball shoos away Sea Gulls

Mules leave Salisbury with 80-66 victory

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

Last season, the women of 'Berg basketball faced an early exit from the Centennial Conference Playoffs following their first-round loss to Ursinus 57-38. With the loss of six integral seniors to graduation, the 2019-2020 season was looking bleak. However, on Saturday, Nov. 9, the ladies proved that they are not taking a step back, but are instead pushing forward with force. The Mules traveled to Salisbury, MD, searching for their first win of the new campaign, and with four players notching double-digits in scoring, the ladies found themselves in the winning column.

"My teammates and coaches were very supportive and always made sure my head was held high."

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Mikaela McGarvey '22 scored a career high 24 points this past weekend against Salisbury.

While Salisbury may not be a Centennial Conference foe, this opening win certainly means a lot, especially for the three freshmen who all made their collegiate debuts. Sara Peretti '23, in her 11 minutes on the court, shined, and at the end of the day was the second leading scorer. Her 13 points only trailed Mikaela McGarvey '22 and her career high 24 points. Peretti also wrapped up the day with two rebounds, an assist, 3-4 shooting from the field and 7-8 from the free throw line.

Peretti reflected on her first collegiate experience and her outstanding performance.

"I was really excited to start off my career at Muhlenberg with a great game," Peretti stated.

She continued to praise her teammates as well as Coach Rohn and his staff. Peretti is excited to see what the rest of her rookie year has in store.

"My teammates and coaches were very supportive and always made sure my head was held high. With this, I'm excited to see what the rest of the season holds," the forward said.

For McGarvey, starting off her second year with a bang certainly has her feeling rewarded.

"It meant a lot to me because we worked hard in the fall to prepare for our season and getting off to a good start was really important to us. We didn't get the result we wanted at the end of last year, so it was nice to see our hard work pay off and come back with a win," McGarvey said.

In addition to her 24 points, McGarvey went 8 for 11 shots from the field, while making 4 of 6 shots from the three-point line.

In addition to Peretti's play, the overall team play was stellar. Collectively, the group shot an eyebrow-raising 59.5 percent from the field, something they did only once all of last season. McGarvey and Peretti led the Mules' bench, and at the end of the day, the reserves accounted for a total of 52 points. The Sea Gulls, however, only received seven points from their bench players.

Having a reliable bench is essential for maintaining this level of play, and it will be even more critical if this group plans on making a run to the Centennial Conference Playoffs.

"Our main goal is to be conference champions, and that starts with taking down our rivals in the conference the first time we play them."

Peretti attributed this opening day victory to the countless hours the team has spent working on their craft.

"We've put in countless hours of training and preparation for this season, and everything seems to be coming together rather well," said Peretti. "Between lifting [and] conditioning as well as many hours in the gym playing pick-up, we made sure we were prepared for this season. Our shooting was on point in this first game, and that was a big contribution."

Contributing to their success over the weekend was the group's effort on both sides of the ball.

"We played tough defense and took good shots on offense," McGarvey explained. "My teammates moved the ball really well and were able to find the open players at the right time. Also, everyone was really supportive of each other and kept a high level of energy throughout the game."

As the next game versus Washington College is approaching, the season is bound to progress quickly. Both women have ideas as to how to sustain a high level of play and grow as basketball players.

"I plan to keep contributing as much as I can and helping this team win as much as possible. Our main goal is to be conference champions, and that starts with taking down our rivals in the conference the first time we play them," McGarvey stated.

Peretti understands the importance of practice as well as the improvement of not only her game, but that of her teammates as well.

"I'm going to continue to play hard in practice to not only make myself better, but my teammates as well. It's very important to always give it your best in practice so you can do the same in the games. Replicating game-like scenarios in practice can lead to better performance in games, so I'll continue to do that and stay focused for the rest of the season."

The Mules take on Washington College in a C.C. matchup on Saturday, Nov. 16, and following that, the ladies will have one more game prior to the tip-off of the Scotty Wood Tournament, hosted annually at Memorial Hall.

from **Football** page 12

Centennial Conference standings. Ampomah and the rest of the team share the same belief that they have the abilities to finish the season with a perfect 10-0 record, along with a Centennial Conference Championship.

"We are very confident that this team will finish undefeated and win the Centennial. We have worked hard enough and have enough talent to finish perfect. I know that all my teammates think the same," Ampomah said.

However, the Mules know that playing their top rival is no easy task, as the Greyhounds are seeking their first win over the Mules since 2008. After losing their first four games of the season, Moravian has turned their season around, winning their last four of five games and coming into Allentown with greater confidence.

Ugarte believes that a successful week of practice and consistent execution of assignments as a unit will propel the Mules to yet another victory.

"A national championship is the ultimate goal for us."

"Moravian is always a tough matchup and a rival for a reason," said Ugarte. "I am confident that if we continue to practice hard and execute like we have been, we [will be] a very difficult team to beat."

The Mules kickoff against Moravian at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 16 with a Senior Day ceremony prior to the start of the game.

Mules impress at first tourney of the year

Luca Colstock '22 leads the way to wrestling squad's sixth-place finish as the team moves towards bigger goals

By Samantha Brenner
Staff Writer

With the formal season opening up on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m., the Muhlenberg Wrestling team traveled to Wilkes-Barre, PA for the Ned McGinley Invitational. While they didn't do as well as they had hoped, the Mules were able to improve from last year's performance, earning almost 20 more points than they did then at this exact match. With the overall team placing sixth in the invitational, many of the players had personal successes: two first-year students, Michael Ruane '23 and Ryan Kaplow '23, both left the invitational with their first big collegiate wins. Jimmy Fratantoni '20, in the 184 Ib category, also picked up three big wins, which made him a top seed in the final round, marking his third appearance there in two years. Perhaps the biggest success of the day, though, belonged to Luca Colestock '22, who placed first.

For Colestock, this invitational meant proving that he and the team were able to show what they've learned in the offseason.

"As a team, we expect to improve upon last year and hopefully compete well in Conference to win the team title. Individually, I'm just looking to keep improving and qualify for national tournament," said Colestock.

Colestock was able to bounce right back into the new season. He ended last year on a win and has now has begun this year with another tournament victory. Colestock was fortunate enough to have a rematch with the same opponent from his final match as a freshman and once again came out on top.

For Colestock, the belief that this team will be able to achieve the impossible just by being a unit holds true. "Our team's biggest strength is that we're a family. Guys live together, train together, hang out together and get along well, and it really has made a difference in our team's mindset and performance," stated Colestock.

Looking towards the future, Colestock plans to continue training, preparing and pushing himself further in order to continue his hot streak. "After this weekend, the team is looking to keep getting better collectively and to stay confident in our training and our abilities. And, hopefully, that will translate in the future," said the sophomore.

The same goes for Brian Jamison '20. Coming in sixth place at the Invitational, Jamison uses this match as a starting point, marking the start to a hopefully successful season.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Brian Jamison '20 holds his opponent down in 2018.

"Our expectations of one another this season are incredibly high, and as a result, [this] has created a very competitive room. The goal is to win the conference at home in February and then send multiple guys to nationals a few weeks later," said Jamison.

Jamison relies on his teammates, using their perseverance to push himself further. "I think this team is very close-knit, and we saw that this first tournament. We always had more people in our corner, and sometimes late in matches that can make a real difference," Jamison said.

Jamison has some takeaways from this weekend's first competition that need to be applied to not just the next match, but also to every match as the season moves along.

"We are a very tough and gritty team, but sometimes I think we don't use that to our advantage enough. If we can use our conditioning and toughness to push the pace, we are tough to beat," Jamison explained.

Jamison believes that if the Mules push themselves, then they will be unbeatable. He walked away from the invitational with four wins under his belt.

The Mules look to take all that they've practiced and gained from the invitational and preseason and apply it to the rest of the season moving ahead.

The squad looks forward to traveling to Oneonta, NY for a matinee at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Men's basketball forces Greyhounds to heel

Muhlenberg captures big road win against rival Moravian, boosting hopes for a stellar season ahead

By Jason Grant
Asst. Sports Editor

The Muhlenberg men's basketball team tipped off the 2019-2020 season with a rivalry game on the road. The Mules traveled to Moravian College, looking to smother their opponents with unmatched shooting. They did just that, going an incredible 61 percent from the field in the first half. The second half was more of the same, as Spencer Duke '21 went 9-13 and put up a career high 26 points to lead Muhlenberg to a close 95-87 win.

The victory avenged last year's game against Moravian, which the Mules lost on their own hardwood 79-75. Clearly, they were determined to return the favor this year. For his performance, Duke was awarded with Centennial Conference player of the week, as his 296 points were the most by a Muhlenberg player in an opener since 1996.

Although Muhlenberg shot the ball exceptionally, 56 percent for the game, Moravian shot nearly as well at a 44 percent clip, resulting in a back-and-forth contest. After going into halftime with a 56-49 lead, Moravian came out with a vengeance in the second half, going on an 8-0 run to grab the lead. The second half remained close, and though Muhlenberg secured the lead back, Moravian kept closing the gap.

Duke was not the only one with a hot hand on Saturday. Dan Gaines '22 was equally as efficient, putting up 19 points on 9-11 shooting. Gaines regularly won Centennial Conference player of the week last year as a first-year student, and the game against Moravian illustrated that he has no intention of slowing down.

"I think the biggest thing for us was how well we moved the ball and made the extra pass," Gaines explained. "Doing this opens up driving lanes for myself and my teammates and also leads to open shots from the perimeter. We knew we had to share the ball to beat a good team like Moravian."

This bodes well for a young team that is hoping to improve upon a solid 2018-2019 campaign. The squad finished 12-13 overall last year, going 9-9 in the Centennial Conference and barely missing out on the final playoff spot. Gaines believes a strong start to the season is the key to meeting that goal.

"Getting the first win of the season is always important for the team's confidence going forward, especially against an opponent like Moravian," said Gaines. "You can always guess how good of a team you will be during the preseason, but won't know for sure until you actually get out there for a real game."

This year they hope to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2013-2014, and with a young core, they have a two- to three-year window to compete with the best in the conference. Center Justin Allen '23 grabbed 10 rebounds in his collegiate debut, helping Muhlenberg dominate on the boards and finish the game out rebounding the Greyhounds 44-28.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Dan Gaines '22 scored 19 points while only taking 11 shots.

While the offense was firing on all cylinders and produced 95 points, Gaines knows that allowing 87 points is not a winning formula. "I think we set ourselves to high standards and want to make sure we continue to grow as a team as each practice and game goes on, especially on defense. We understand that we won't win many games if we continue to give up close to 90 points a game, so that has definitely been a focus in practice."

The men have three more games before hosting the annual Scotty Wood Tournament at Memorial Hall on Nov. 22-23. They do not open conference play until Nov. 26, but they aren't taking any game lightly.

"We understand that if we hope to be successful we cannot take any of these things for granted," stressed Gaines. "The great teams come ready to play every day regardless of how they feel."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Football Clinches Playoff Berth

With one final game remaining, the Mules are confident and ready to "do their job"

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Nick Ugarte '21 makes a sensational TD grab versus Ursinus on Oct. 18.

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Mules football team moved to 9-0 with a win over Gettysburg on Saturday, clinching a spot in the NCAA Tournament and earning at least a share of the Centennial Conference title for the second straight season.

As the Mules have dominated opponents all season long and return the majority of their key players from last season's Elite Eight squad, expectations are extremely high. Linebacker Kwasi Ampomah '20 exclaimed, "The expectation for this postseason is to win a national championship. We believe that this team is special and is the best in the country. A national championship is the ultimate goal for us."

At Gettysburg, the Mules got off to a slow start offensively, despite gaining good field position early on thanks to a poor Gettysburg punt and a Daymon Fleming '21 interception. It wasn't until the second quarter that Mules found the endzone when Michael Hnatkowsky '21 connected with Michael Feaster '22 for a 42-yard touchdown pass.

A safety and a Mitch Daniel '21 touchdown reception gave the Mules a 19-3 lead going into the locker room at halftime. Wide Receiver Nick Ugarte '21 acknowledged the adjustments made by the Mules during the second quarter as a turning point in the game, stating that "once we started getting hot offensively and defensively towards the end of the second quarter and after halftime, we were able to take control."

"When things aren't going our way, it is important to gather ourselves and play like we know how to."

In the second half, the Mules continued to execute in their passing game as Ugarte and Chris Hillburn '20 hauled in long touchdown receptions. The defense pitched a second-half shut out, and the Mules left Gettybsurg victorious with a 44-3 win.

As a defensive unit, the Mules rank number one in the conference, allowing just 10.5 points per game.

Gettysburg has one of the most intricate offensive playbooks in the conference, and the Mules were prepared to stop any potential big plays. Ampomah credits each member of the defense with making adjustments and executing their assignments throughout the game to prevent the Bullets from finding the endzone.

"Gettysburg has one of the most diverse playbooks in this conference, and we knew that they would have something dialed up for us this game," Ampomah said. "The way we combatted this was with our in-game adjustments and assignment-perfect football. Our mantra on this defense is to 'do your job.' That means not trying to make the big play and executing your assignment on the field perfectly so we don't have any holes in our defense. After we adjusted and executed, we knew we could keep them out of the endzone effectively."

Ugarte credits the offense's resilience and ability to communicate effectively on the sideline as a key to victory over the Bullets after their slow start.

"When things aren't going our way, it is important to gather ourselves and play like we know how to," said Urgarte. "That's exactly what we did. We talk[ed] on the sidelines as a unit and discuss[ed] what they are doing and what we need to do in order to start moving the ball. Once we sorted things out, we were able to get moving and kept it like that for the remainder."

Next week, the Mules conclude the regular season with a home game against rival Moravian at Scotty Wood Stadium. Going into the final game, the Mules believe that they can finish the regular season undefeated and finish atop of the

see Football page 10

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Nov. 16

Men's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Marymount
Saturday, Nov. 16 @ 11:00 a.m.
Varsity Field

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Washington College
Saturday, Nov. 16 @ 2:00 p.m.
Chestertown, MD

Women's Soccer
Muhlenberg vs Hood
Saturday, Nov. 16 @ 2:00 p.m.
Center Valley, PA

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Oneota
Saturday, Nov. 16 @ 4:00 p.m.
Oneonta, NY

The Muhlenberg Weekly

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 10
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Read inside:

New co-directors of Africana Studies department announced

more on 3

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

NEWS

Dr. Kathleen Bachynski highlights the history and dangers of youth tackle football with the release of her new book.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Spray painter Solomon Bergwerk '21, started creating art when he was a senior in high school. Since, he has become a serious artist whose work has been displayed in an exhibit in Manhattan.

read more on 6

Karly McCloskey // The Muhlenberg Weekly

OP/ED

Will Wamser says goodbye, good luck and good riddance to the Muhlenberg Weekly as he is *made* to step down as Op/Ed section editor without honors.

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SPORTS

Following an incredible season, soccer star Libby Juliano '20 and her fellow Mules find themselves in prime position to hoist the ECAC trophy.

read more on 11

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

Roshni Patel '21, Marta Rardin '20, Nisha Godbole '20, Sara Flash '20 and Shivani Iyer '23 perform a Bollywood dance from their original production "When Maasti Met Deewani."

Light on their feet

Top Naach's Diwali festival sparks joy

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How do sororities haze?

Former sorority sister recounts incident at 'Berg

By Sammi Singman
Contributing Writer

**This is Abigail's story. It happened a few years ago on campus and has not yet been confirmed by all other parties involved. All names in this article have been changed.*

When she joined her sorority, Abigail had no doubt that she had found her new home. "It was the most incredible feeling; you get 16 more friends and are loved unconditionally," she said after accepting her pledge to one of 'Berg's sororities her sophomore year.

"My sophomore year was beautiful and wonderful. I got a big [sister] and my sorority had my back. But things changed my junior year when I saw stuff happen. From that moment on, I knew my home on campus would not be the same," said Abigail.

It was early October when Abigail walked into the party. She entered the MILE house on Chew Street and got herself a drink. She was about to enter the living room but stopped in the doorway as she noticed two new pledges, Meg and Leah, much more intoxicated than she had ever seen them. She moved further into the room. She looked even more closely. She saw tally marks down the arms of the new pledges signifying the number of shots they had taken so far that night.

Abigail could see their discomfort; she heard them say they had had enough for the night. Both whimpered to their bigs saying that "[they] had enough to drink for now," but their bigs, their mentors in the sorority, refused to let them stop.

"I'm your big, and you have to do what I tell you," they said as they tipped their littles' shot glasses back and marked another tally on their arms.

The sorority moved to a new house party, a little farther down Chew Street. Abigail watched as Meg threw up from excessive alcohol. "My little just puked and rallied," she heard the big yell and called people over to watch her force her little to drink some more.

The sorority continued to move from party to party, and Abigail continued to hear Meg and Leah complain about how much they drank and questioning why they had to keep drinking.

They looked physically uncomfortable and miserable. Snapchats were taken of the littles passed out, unconscious, that showed the bigs praising "their work."

"I called [Leah] the next day and asked her how her night was. She told me it was fine, but her big made her drink too much. Throughout the conversation that line 'but my big made me drink too much' and [Leah's] power struggle of feeling the need to please her big triggered me to report what I had seen."

"Witnessing hazing changes everything," said Abigail. "It was like a *Catch 22*. They tell you they love you — that they would never haze you — and then it just happens."

"I knew after my conversation with [Leah] that I had to come forward for her. I was surrounded by people who were scared, but I knew what happened was not good — not right," and with that Abigail came forward and filed a report.

Sorority experiences like Abigail's still are not uncommon, explained the students interviewed for this article. Despite college efforts to rewrite anti-hazing guidelines to be more comprehensive, hazing still occurs. In sororities, incidents of hazing are often overlooked due to misconceptions about sorority life. In fact, of the complaints filed against Greek organizations at Muhlenberg in the past five years, in the latest incident report on file with the college, five reports were filed about a sorority versus two for fraternities.

According to research studies done by the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors (AFA), hazing differs between men and women. Hazing among men typically involves physical activity, while hazing among women tends to focus on causing emotional and psychological harm. This type of hazing is often overlooked, misunderstood by stu-

see **Sorority** page 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, November 11

Sick student - 7:53 a.m.
Report of sick student in Brown Hall. MCEMS responded, student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Tuesday, November 12

Found property - 11:59 a.m.
Report of found cell phone in Life Sports Center, item later returned to owner.

Traffic accident - 12:59 p.m.
Report of minor accident on off-campus location, causing damage to glass of side view mirror. No further incident.

Fire alarm - 1:25 p.m.
Report of fire alarm from cooking on 2201 Chew Street. System silenced and reset.

Fire alarm - 7:49 p.m.
Report of fire alarm from cooking at Alpha Tau Omega. System silenced and reset.

Disturbance - 9:30 p.m.
Report of disturbance in Brown Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to. Residential Services notified, no further incident.

Wednesday, November 13

Sick student - 4:51 a.m.
Report of sick student in Prosser Hall. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Harassment - 5:45 p.m.
Report of harassment in Life Sports Center. Investigation to continue.

Disabled Vehicle - 8:01 a.m.
Report to jump start vehicle at 2235 Gordon Street. Vehicle successfully started by Campus Safety.

Thursday, November 14

Point of information - 10:52 a.m.
Report of suspicious person at Egner Memorial Chapel. Individual identified, no further incident.

Friday, November 15

Sick student - 7:57 a.m.
Report of sick student, MCEMS responded, student transported to Student Health Services.

Saturday, November 16

Harassment - 1:20 a.m.
Report of harassment in Benfer Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to, Residential Services notified, investigation to continue.

Theft - 10:15 a.m.
Report of theft of money in Martin Luther, individuals spoken to, investigation to continue.

Disturbance - 6:25 p.m.
Report of disturbance in Robertson Hall, individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.

Noise complaint - 11:08 p.m.
Report of noise complaint in Village 5, residents spoken to and music turned down.

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Prof. tackles youth football

Discussing her new book, Dr. Kathleen Bachynski addresses the history and dangers of the sport

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

"You can't replace a brain." These are the words Dr. Kathleen Bachynski, professor of Public Health, used to describe the severity of sports-related head injuries as she addressed the room of about 30 students and others. Unlike bones that heal with time or ligaments and tendons that can be surgically repaired, damage to the brain can never be undone. Tackle football, a sport that has grown to be a vital aspect of American culture, presents a significant public health concern, especially as the sport does not seem to be slowing down any time soon.

For Dr. Bachynski, her biggest public health concern is not brain injuries as they relate to professional football, but as it relates to youth football. The youth that play tackle football significantly outweigh those playing both in college as well as in the pros. Statistics from 2015, which are roughly the same today according to Bachynski, show that roughly 2,000,000 children play youth football, while another 1,000,000 play at the high school level and 100,000 at the collegiate level. These numbers, as indicated by Bachynski, show that 95 percent of football players are in fact children.

Children dominate the nationwide football community today, and many of Muhlenberg's football stars actually got their start in the sport when they were youngsters themselves. This was exactly the case for tight end Ryan Curtiss '20, who reflected upon his start on the gridiron. "I was introduced to football in second grade when I was eight years old. I had played flag football for two years before that, but actually started playing [tackle] football when I was eight years old," Curtiss said.

For others, like Joseph O'Hagan '20, football is in their blood. Being the son of a former football player, it was inevitable that O'Hagan would be introduced to the sport. "I have been playing football for as long as I can remember," O'Hagan explained. "My father played college football and was a football coach before I was born, so I have been surrounded by the game forever. I have been playing the game since I [could] walk, but I began playing tackle football in the third grade and have been playing ever since," O'Hagan continued.

O'Hagan, however, is not the only one to have been shown the game of football at a young age. The same applies to defensive end Frank Lucchesi '20. "My father introduced me to football," Lucchesi said. "I started playing when I was seven, and I can tell you that football is a part of my life." For Lucchesi, football is clearly something he holds close to his heart.

What is consistent for all three men is the fact they all began their football careers around the age of seven, eight or nine. As Bachynski noted, the optimal age that is agreed upon for children to start playing tackle football is 14.

With new information surrounding brain trauma emerging, especially with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, the urgency to protect our developing youth is imperative. The vulnerability, as Bachynski pointed out, is rooted in the weaker skulls, necks and the still-developing brains of these young footballers. In protecting our youth, we must also look to the ethical concerns that are in play. Bachynski made clear that as children, they lack the ability to give informed consent. In regards to football, this means that children are unable to access and fully understand the short-term and long-term effects and therefore must rely on their parents to make these decisions for them.

The risks faced by children playing football are clear, and Curtiss understands the struggle, as he has suffered concussions himself. "I have had two concussions in my time playing football: one in fourth grade and another in the seventh grade," he said. While he has been fortunate ever since, it is vital that these moments be highlighted.

Another essential aspect of Bachynski's newly published book, *No Game for Boys to Play*, is the critical eye that she employs to assess not only the public health risks involved, but also the important historical developments that have shaped youth tackle football. Without cultivating an understanding for how football has progressed to what it is today, this pressing issue cannot be understood.

Bachynsky pointed to two instances in which medical professionals begged boys to not participate in such collision sports. One came from an editorial in 1906 written by *The Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA). Even as it was advised that there "need be no such hesitation, however, in deciding that football is no game for boys," it was ignored by the general public. And even prior to that, The Chicago Tribune in 1894 stated that football "is the only athletic sport which brings the whole bodies of players into violent collision."

These statements were largely ignored, and it is easy to see why, especially if you look to O'Hagan, Curtiss and Lucchesi. For them, life without football is not an option. As they have grown throughout the years, football has always been there and for them, and giving the sport up has never been a thought.

"None of that goes through my mind. Football is a part of my life and has taught me a lot about myself, and I have learned many qualities that will help me excel in the real world," Lucchesi said.

O'Hagan shares the same sentiment as his teammate, simply stating, "Football has shaped me into the person that I have become today, and I would not take that back for anything. The amount of memories and friendships that I have made from playing football are too valuable to ever second-guess."

"With new information surrounding brain trauma emerging, especially with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, the urgency to protect our developing youth is imperative."

Although the issues surrounding youth tackle football remain, its importance among children and adults remains as well. In order to protect and ensure the wellbeing of these football players, the men of Muhlenberg Football have some ideas.

"To protect the youth and the game of football, these players need to be trained well and prepared well for making the right plays at the right time. Tackling the right way and doing the training to keep your body healthy is very important. If you do not correctly play the game, then that is when injuries can occur," Curtiss explained.

O'Hagan completely agrees with Curtiss, as he looks at coaches and their job to stress the importance of safety. "As long as coaches continue to emphasize the importance of safety in the game of football, I believe there is nothing to worry about," O'Hagan said.

Lucchesi, on the other hand, actually wants to see the age when these children can begin playing tackle football raised. "I would say, start tackle football at a higher age, once kids have the ability to comprehend and make their own decisions."

The public health issue presented by Dr. Bachynski in her new book sheds light on a tremendous aspect of American culture, and with Muhlenberg Football set to begin their NCAA playoff run on Saturday, Nov. 23 against MIT, this is an all-too-appropriate time to reflect upon this crisis.

New interim co-directors appointed to Africana Studies program

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Co-News Editor

Last week, Provost Bruce Anderson announced the appointment of two interim co-directors of the Africana Studies program: Dr. Emanuela Kucik (Africana Studies and English) and Dr. Connie Wolfe (Psychology). He also called attention to the phased retirement plan of Professor Roberta Meek from the Africana Studies program at the College. For the past five years, Meek, a lecturer of Media and Communication and History, has served as director of the program. Her work has helped to foster a community on campus that, according to Anderson, "students could go to for guidance surrounding courses, conversations and events centered on the experiences of people in the African Diaspora."

This marks Kucik's second year at Muhlenberg, where she has been applying her interdisciplinary experience in English and Africana Studies to courses like Genocide and Blackness, Global Black Literature and Introduction to Africana Studies.

Wolfe has taught at Muhlenberg for the past seventeen years, and she plans to incorporate her detailed knowledge of the history and values of the institution in this new position.

During their time as interim co-directors, they plan to aid Anderson and Associate Provost Brooke Vick in the search for a professor to fulfill the role as Director of the Program.

"One of the most exciting next steps for the program is to search for a new, full-time, tenured or tenure-track professor who would begin work in Fall 2021," said Kucik and Wolfe in a joint statement. "We are also interested in continuing to incorporate into the program the work and classes of many of Muhlenberg's current faculty members, which allows us to draw from the unbelievable talent we already have here, in addition to hiring a new member of the program."

Both Kucik and Wolfe will also take on the responsibility of the continuation and development of the program starting next semester.

"We are committed to ensuring that students know that one of the most exciting elements of Africana Studies is that students from all majors and backgrounds can engage with it, learn from it and apply it to their lives."

"We are dedicated to maintaining the phenomenal program that Professor Meek helped build, and we see Africana Studies as a vital hub for Muhlenberg's students and faculty to learn about the underrepresented, interdisciplinary knowledge about people of African descent around the world," expressed Kucik and Wolfe.

This element of interdisciplinary studies functions as a major focus for the role of the newly appointed positions; all students are encouraged to explore what the Africana Studies program has to offer.

"We are committed to ensuring that students know that one of the most exciting elements of Africana Studies is that students from all majors and backgrounds can engage with it, learn from it and apply it to their lives," said Kucik and Wolfe. "After taking Africana Studies courses, students in the physical sciences have told us that they are now committed to applying their new knowledge of race and racial inequality to careers in medicine, as they want to combat the racism that many black patients face in the healthcare industry," explained Kucik and Wolfe.

Another overarching goal of the program is to strengthen the commitment to social justice both here on campus and beyond.

"Africana Studies is not only about the history of peoples of the African Diaspora; it is also about the reverberations of injustice against those peoples that continue today, and therefore, we view making contributions to social justice initiatives in our current moment as an integral aspect of the program," said Kucik. "We are both deeply committed to eradicating inequality, and we are excited to incorporate that commitment into our work with the program, both inside and outside of the classroom."

FROM **SORORITY** PAGE 1

dents and faculty as "bonding," "tradition" and "group unity."

Sororities came to Muhlenberg in 1984. Female students on campus felt that it was necessary to counteract the fraternity-centered social life that existed on campus. According to Weekly articles from that time, many students even argued that there was "something missing on campus ... a bond between girls" and strongly felt that sororities would bring that missing element; they would provide that community, the lifelong network that Abigail believed she was seeking when she pledged.

When Muhlenberg discussed the creation of sororities in Nov. 1983, a board of faculty and students interviewed five prospective sororities of the 26 existing national Panhellenic organizations. These sororities were selected based upon specific criteria of the committee. These criteria included "a non-discrimination clause, evidence of recent (and successful) colonization, the availability of local alumnae support and the degree of financial support the local chapters might be able to provide." In addition, James Bryan, who was Dean of Students at the time, stated that four of the chapters were selected based on their Christian philosophy, with one "non-sectarian" sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma, to accommodate those not comfortable with the chapters' Christian ideology. Of those five, the committee selected three: Phi Sigma Sigma, Alpha Chi Omega and Delta Zeta.

In addition to the establishment of sororities on campus, Muhlenberg was beginning to follow suit with other college campuses and discuss a campuswide alcohol ban. In Jan. 1984, Bryan announced that Muhlenberg would start with this process with a dry fraternity rush.

When sorority recruitment occurred, they too needed to abide by this policy; however, it was also a part of the policy for the National Panhellenic Council. Nonetheless, they took this one step further. When discussing and designing chapter bylaws during their development, all three sororities decided that they would not only prohibit alcohol during rush, but also at all sorority functions.

No official policy was ever formally enacted, and hazing and alcohol abuse has continued to be a prevalent issue throughout Muhlenberg history.

While hazing incidents are posted online on Muhlenberg's website under the anti-hazing policy, a current sorority member said, "I think the school more publicly acknowledges hazing from the fraternities versus the sororities. This might also have to do with the difference between someone from the outside reporting versus someone within the organization. When a sorority hazing incident was reported, it seems to be kept more under wraps."

Steve Dutton, who was at the time associate director for student engagement, clubs and organizations and fraternity and sorority life, agreed with the AFA's research findings, stating, "I think the differences are somewhat rooted in socio-normative expectations. If you just look at Muhlenberg's history, it's more likely for men's organizations to be found responsible for hazing more than women's organizations. No sorority has ever been removed from Muhlenberg's campus for hazing."

This same research also illustrates that females have more of a "forced awareness" around the idea of hazing, meaning that they are more perceptive to the fact that they are being hazed. This might account for the fact that more incidents within sororities have been reported.

Hank Nuwer, journalist and author of *Hazing: Destroying Young Lives,* has documented every death related to hazing since 1737. Since 1970, he has found a minimum of one death a year and estimated 77 deaths since 2005 as a result of hazing.

However, a more recent death is creating a new precedent for hazing, enacting tougher laws and creating harsher consequences for students guilty of hazing — that of Penn State student Timothy Piazza in Feb. 2017. Nearly two years later in Oct. 2018, Gov. Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania signed into effect the Timothy J. Piazza Anti-Hazing Law. The law re-defines hazing and addresses transparency, enforcement and prevention regarding anti-hazing laws on college campuses. With this law going into effect, colleges throughout Pennsylvania — including Muhlenberg — adapted their policies to further "Greek Excellence."

Muhlenberg's new anti-hazing policy can be found on the College's website. It defines hazing in alignment with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania laws, as well as creating restrictions that ensure the best interest of all Greek life members and requirements/obligations for reporting hazing.

A month after the incident involving Abigail, Muhlenberg's judicial board held a trial. According to the hazing report, the charge was "unfounded as hazing," but the sorority was guilty of violating the alcohol policy for providing minors with alcohol. The sorority faced a "disciplinary warning" and was required to complete a "restorative circle," a strategy used to rebuild group relationships.

After this incident, Abigail wrote her own version of Muhlenberg's anti-hazing policy to further explain what coercion is and to emphasize the zero-tolerance policy, as well as requiring a hazing education event for Greek chapters each year. However, despite her efforts, Abigail shared that "it was kind of just pushed under the table and let go."

While Abigail felt as if her suggestions had been ignored, Dean Gulati ensured that "prior to the most recent update to our policy [last January], there were prior revisions made to our old policy based on input from students."

In regards to the changes Muhlenberg made to comply with the Timothy J. Piazza Anti-Hazing Law, Abigail said, "I am happy something was done [now], but it should not have been because it was a requirement; it should have been done because it needed to be."

To impeach or not to impeach

A professional discussion

BY CYDNEY WILSON
CO-NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, Nov. 15, the non-partisan club BergVotes hosted a roundtable discussion on impeachment. At the roundtable, Dr. Lanethea Mathews-Schultz, Department Chair and Professor of Political Science, and Dr. Lynda Yankaskas, Associate Professor of History, shared insights on the process of impeachment historically, politically and in the context of the current President of the United States.

The discussion was also attended by Dr. Jacqueline D. Antonovich, Assistant Professor of History, Dr. Ross Dardani, Assistant Professor of Political Science, and Dr. Jeremy Teissére, Associate Professor of Biology and Neuroscience, as well as a number of students.

Mathews-Schultz opened the discussion by explaining that there is no standard procedure for impeachment and that it is a political rather than a legal process.

Yankaskas elaborated on the actual meaning of impeachment, explaining, "You can impeach a president, but it's hard to remove him from office; the senate has to vote in a two-thirds majority ... If this president is convicted by two-thirds that would be unprecedented."

The professors both explained that the political party landscape is fundamentally different than past impeachments, with Mathews-Schultz adding that there will be a significant fallout regardless of the outcome of Trump's hearing.

One focus of the conversation was whether or not President Trump will actually be removed from office, with many of the professors expressing their opinions on the matter.

Mathews-Schultz explained the influence of party loyalty and re-election on lawmakers' decisions on any potential removal, saying, "Each senator has to weigh potential political fallout from their decision."

The professors spoke about public opinion of the presidency, government and impeachment.

Yankaskis responded, "It's not that we think it's okay; it's that we think everybody does it," she explained, "It's not that people should blindly trust government ... [but] the assumption that all of government is evil is profoundly dangerous ... I like having clean water, I like having paved roads ... that's all government, and I think the cynicism can be corrosive."

Mathews-Schultz added that "trust in government is definitely at an all time low," elaborating, "The problem is we seek a solution to a bad president with another president ... we pin our hopes from improvement on yet another president."

Towards the end of the discussion, students spoke about the way that politics, specifically the impeachment inquiry, are spoken about on Muhlenberg's campus.

Joey Goret '20 said, "I think the partisanship has transcended into the private lives of individuals ... and it's just not productive anymore ... the political arena is so toxic right now ... and I think it's hurting everyone and undermining our democratic system."

Simone Kaye '23 added that Muhlenberg students are "tuned into headlines, but it's typically shallow information ... it's more of an emotional response than discourse."

Mathews-Schultz explained that at Muhlenberg, "We're working really hard to create an environment that's less toxic ... in a way that's more productive."

The professors in attendance encouraged students to continue having conversations about impeachment with their peers and to be a part of the governmental process where possible.

"Representatives are supposed to represent us; this is the moment where phone calls and marches and letters [matter]," urged Yankaskis.

Whine about it

SGA encourages student feedback

BY LAURA SCHWARZ
NEWS EDITOR

SGA kicked off their first "Whine Week," a tabling event where students are encouraged to voice their complaints and concerns about the college to their student government representatives. The event will culminate in a "Whine and Cheese Social" this Friday from 7-9 p.m. in the Seegers Union Great Room.

A banner saying, "What would you like to see our school accomplish, both now and in the future?" was available for students to write down their "whines" and subsequently be entered into a raffle to win a set of AirPod Pros.

By just the second day of the event, the banner already contained a wide array of suggestions.

"Pay tour guides!," "more student parking," "more vegetarian and vegan options," "better desks in Moyer!," "Dhall open before 10 on weekend," "Dhall open later on weekends please," "diversity of professors" and "create more diversity initiatives" were just a selection of the complaints, but the most popular request by far appeared to be for free laundry on campus.

"Currently I'm chairing a committee looking into better ways of doing laundry along with members of administration and staff," SGA representative Nicholas Gregg Rubingh '20 explained. "Having these responses from so many students is excellent, as we can bring them to the committee to show how big of a pressing concern this is among students and how this should be a priority for Muhlenberg to address."

Danica Schofer '22, the SGA Student Engagement Chair, was instrumental in planning this event, and expressed why she feels this program is so important.

"Whine Week was necessary because one of the primary jobs of SGA is to be present and responsive to student interests and to communicate those interests to faculty, staff and administration," said Schofer. "Just as importantly, we are looking for ways to inspire a greater sense of community for our student body ... We hope to establish events similar to this in the future."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"Life is the art of drawing without an eraser."

- John W. Gardner

Diwali: Millenia-old Indian tradition heralds excitement on campus

By Danny Milkis
Assistant A&C Editor

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Members of Top Naach pose during this year's Diwali Festival.

This past weekend, students, professors and families from all across Muhlenberg came to the Event Space in order to take part in the celebration of the Diwali Festival, which is an Indian cultural tradition that dates back thousands of years.

The event was hosted by members of Top Naach, Muhlenberg's Bollywood dance and cultural club. The organization is based on a common goal to bring an increased cultural awareness to Muhlenberg through the presentation of South Asian performance styles and traditions. In the case of Diwali, the festival of lights, a sizable crowd was faced with the welcoming sights, music and cuisine of India. The walls were decorated with banners and lights that represented symbols common in the Indian celebration of the Diwali festival.

Among the many delectable homemade Indian dishes being served at the Diwali festival, one could expect to find triangular samosas, paneer and mango lassi drinks. The Wood Dining Commons staff assisted Top Naach in making Indian and Thai food for the event.

From 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., there were a variety of entertaining presentations by numerous student performance ensembles and a cappella groups.

Among those who performed were Muhlenberg's tap team, the Copacetic Rhythms; Muhlenberg's Show Choir, Live in Color, which performed a routine to the classic song "Jailhouse Rock;" the Muhlenberg Dynamics, an a cappella group that performed an impressive rendition of Bishop Briggs's "River;" the Girls Next Door, the all-female-identifying a cappella group; and the Chaimonics, another a capella group, who also sang from their repertoire at the event.

In addition, Top Naach themselves created a Bollywood show called "When Maasti Met Deewani", which featured six songs, "Silsila Yeh Chahaat Ka," "Humble," "Punjabi Clique," "Khalibati X Malhari," "Gaandakanzhagi" and "MIA". This segment featured choreography by Top Naach members Nisha Godbole '20, Roshni Patel '21, Michelle James '21, Michelle Rajan '21 and Ruhani Singh '23, which showcased ornate South Asian costumes and passion and detail on the part of the performers and choreographers. Top Naach members used the space and their abilities to give a remarkable impression of the aesthetics and precision of a modern Bollywood dance performance in India.

Between acts, there were opportunities for socialization, setup and exploration of the many Indian staples being showcased in the Event Space. There was also cultural trivia spread out throughout the afternoon, testing guests' knowledge on the cultural symbols that had been explained by the speakers from Top Naach earlier on in the presentation. Audience members were quizzed on items that could be found in the Event Space, such as light fixtures, cultural symbols and food items.

The members of Top Naach taking part in the performances of the day were very passionate about sharing this important holiday with this campus for a number of reasons, but mostly to open the eyes of people who may not yet be exposed to this tradition and to create a fun and educational medium in which to share ideas and open the doors of Muhlenberg's diversity scene just a little bit wider.

International Student Singh explained that "[Diwali] is a festival about lights, but also about how goodness clashes with evil. It was originally celebrated three weeks ago in India, but it's so important to us and so many of our upbringings that it was vital to share with the school."

"The truth is, there's so many diverse and amazing cultures in that part of the world, and this event opens communication between cultures, which is amazing."

Singh goes on to explain that this event harbors a kind of nostalgia for herself and many other members of Top Naach. She said, "This celebration of Diwali feels like home, and we're all so thankful for this opportunity."

Singh was joined by fellow Top Naach member Simone Kacal '23, who went into more detail about the significance that the Diwali Festival celebration has on the South Asian community on campus.

"So many Indians and South Asians get grouped together," says Kacal. "The truth is, there's so many diverse and amazing cultures in that part of the world, and this event opens communication between cultures, which is amazing."

Other speakers from the group explained over the course of the event that Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists all occupy South Asia, yet have so many different cultural traits, and are often misrepresented as minority groups in the United States, which is why, as they explained, events like Diwali are enriching opportunities for even as small a section of society as a college campus.

On the flip side, the speakers made it very clear that Top Naach is also about fun and games and emphasized that the festival gives people in India a reason to party and celebrate an important tradition with family and friends.

All in all, Top Naach presented a groundbreaking event that combined an inspiring look at a millennia-old cultural festival and its components. Furthermore, it was an opportunity for people to enjoy the time they spent together and help grow the initiative towards diversity on campus.

Too much for too little

By Katherine Dickey
Editorial Assistant

Greenhouse & Enoteca, just a few blocks away from Muhlenberg, is easily discernible by its namesake greenhouse attached to the side of a wide, dark building marked with giant windows large enough to rival the walls of the greenhouse proper. The interior is similarly dusky, with overhead fixtures shining down and providing a glowy ambience to the dark stained wood tables and black metal chairs. It's all so very rustic modern.

While it doesn't accept reservations for parties any smaller than ten, Greenhouse does offer a waiting list via Yelp (accessible on their website) that prospective guests should definitely take advantage of because, frankly, it tends to be popping and wait times can get quite long. Service was also a bit slow, impacted both by the fact that it was a crowded Saturday night and that the dark wooden supports that so stylishly hold up the ceiling can also impede sightlines for servers.

This clam dish was perfectly serviceable, but falls flat when you take into account that it costs $21.

As an appetizer, I decided to try the Arancini Bianca, which — at $9 — I fully expected to be a plate of fried rice balls. I will say I was disappointed by the size of the dish that followed, as it was only a single fist-sized fried rice cone, but it was delicious, with a well-crisped exterior and soft, rich interior of starchy goodness with a secret center full of peas. It was also well complemented by a basic tomato sauce, which kept the dish from being overly heavy with its bright acidic tones.

While its focus on sustainable dining is admirable, Greenhouse & Enoteca neither currently uses their on-premises greenhouse nor credits their local farms that I could see, so I'd like to see more transparency in their menu.

For my entree, I had the Vongole, a dish of a basic clams in white wine sauce over linguini. At first bite, it seemed almost too basic, with only a small portion of tiny fresh clams and none of the lovely fresh seafood taste. However, when I squeezed the provided lemon wedge over the dish, everything brightened up and was a little more well balanced, though the seasonal snow peas still tasted somewhat out of place in the dish. Greenhouse touts a mission of sustainability, which results in less red meat on the menu and a focus on seafood, which is a great concept but hard to maintain in a landlocked state like Pennsylvania. This clam dish was perfectly serviceable, but falls flat when you take into account that it costs $21.

My companions' dishes, however, were scrumptious. One ordered the Shrimp Limoncello, a bright lemony shrimp risotto over sweet balsamic and sour tomato sauces, which I'm not proud to say I stole multiple bites from. The other had the Shrimp "Scampi," which was shrimp, blistered tomatoes and citrus in harmony over pappardelle pasta, which I also stole a few bites from. None of our small cohort ordered the pizzas, so I don't feel qualified to comment on them, though I'd be interested to go back and try.

Katherine Dickey / The Muhlenberg Weekly
Greenhouse & Enoteca is a sustainable restaurant within walking distance from Muhlenberg College.

My main complaint at Greenhouse & Enoteca was the price. The food is pretty good, but it is too expensive for the quality it provides at normal or smaller than normal portion sizes. Appetizers range from $8-$15, salads from $10-$21 (depending on the type and whether you add chicken or shrimp), entrees and pastas from $17-$25 (with gluten free options available at a $3 bump) and pizzas from $12-$19 (again with gluten free cauliflower crust available at a $3 bump). Desserts and drinks can add quite a bit to your tab, but they have house-made wine and local ciders and craft beers that might be hard to get elsewhere.

While its focus on sustainable dining is admirable, Greenhouse & Enoteca neither currently uses their on-premises greenhouse nor credits their local farms that I could see, so I'd like to see more transparency in their menu. Using local freshwater fish might also ease the strain of using seafood in an inland city. Their food is fashionable modern Italian-American fusion, which results in a somewhat hit-or-miss menu. Greenhouse & Enoteca is a nice place to try, but because of cost, quality and gaps between mission and execution, it won't be a staple in my dining rotation in the near future.

Greenhouse & Enoteca just a 10 minute walk from campus at 2114 W Tilghman St, Allentown, PA 18104 and is open from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and 5 p.m.-11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

Artist of the Week: Solomon Bergwerk '21

By Ayden Levine
Contributing Writer

"I love to paint anywhere that is not the norm. I don't get very creative in an art studio; I love going outside on roofs to paint," said Solomon Bergwerk '21.

An International Studies major with a minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurial Studies, Bergwerk was never really into art until his senior year of high school. "My senior year of high school, I took art as a class to fulfill a requirement. The teacher sat me down because I was misbehaving and slacking off: 'Solomon, do something different; give it a shot or leave the class.' I gave it a shot and found my voice."

Bergwerk specifically used spray paint because it was a medium that was frowned upon and he wanted to be rebellious. "It all comes down to water-based acrylic paint, different types of matte mediums in order to generate different textures and a couple cans of highly toxic spray paint."

After that, Bergwerk put all his effort into his art. During the next three years, he converted his bedroom into an art studio. "For about a year, I was sleeping in the toxins of my art," Bergwerk joked.

Bergwerk's first piece was inspired by a quote by Pablo Picasso: "Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up." He tore up childhood books and spray painted Picasso's face over the arranged scraps. The piece is entitled "Dyslexic Pablo", representing Bergwerk managing his dyslexia while still holding onto his childlike demeanor.

Bergwerk takes his inspiration from artists like Jackson Pollock and Banksy.

"I found the power of color from Pollock and the rawness of stencils from Banksy," he said. "I went on to create my own [style] and combined it with collages on different platforms, whether [it was] canvas, cardboard or even a brick wall."

Bergwerk tends to always stick to three things: having a concrete background usually through collage, using color to promote a theme— often of identity — and creating a stencil to promote a message.

When questioned further, Bergwerk delved into his deep love and appreciation for the elusive artist Banksy. "Banksy goes against what any art teacher has taught me. I was often taught to follow each technique to the fullest and that the only way to become successful in the art world was to follow the same path," Bergwerk said. "But maybe I should ignore that and become a 'vandal' like Banksy."

Bergwerk's high school yearbook quote was "Watch me change the world," and he lives by that even today. "I always knew I wanted to do something that made me stand out and had a positive effect on people. In this particular moment in time, art gives me an outlet to communicate and send a message to whoever wants to listen." The subject of his paintings are often famous figures that worked in pursuit of justice like Rosa Parks, Lauryn Hill, Mahatma Gandhi and many other pioneers that have influenced major social change.

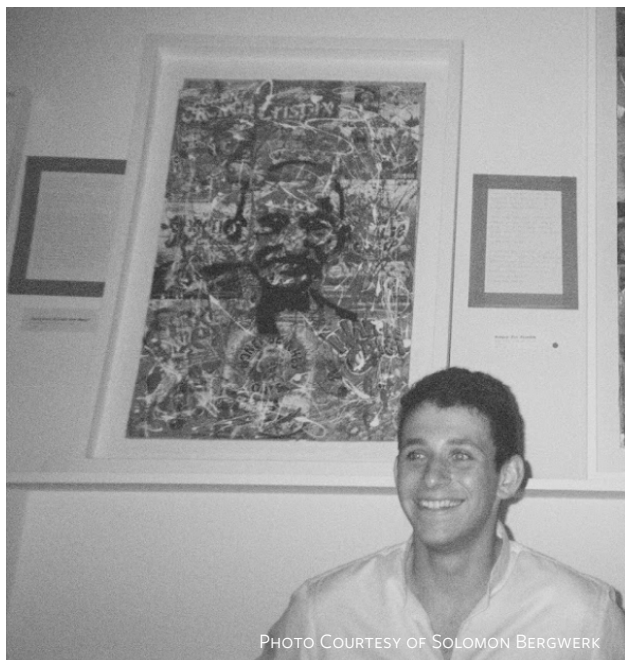
Photo Courtesy of Solomon Bergwerk
Solomon Bergwerk '21 presents one of his masterpieces: "Hungry for Freedom."

Bergwerk tends to always stick to three things: having

see **Artist** page 7

The Red Door Play Festival:

Student productions are back in the spotlight

By Corinne Battistelli
Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Sasson Lonner

Camille Ladendorf '23 (R) and Leah Trunsky '21 perform a scene from *Knockers* at this semester's Red Door Play Festival.

This weekend marked this semester's Red Door Play Festival, sponsored by the Muhlenberg Theatre Association (MTA). Each show is a purely student production, as students produce, direct, design and run all aspects of this event. The three-day event featured nine shows, each performed twice.

I had the opportunity this weekend to see three of the performances: *Knockers*, *At the Bottom of Lake Missoula* and *Counting to Three*.

"[The MTA] gave me a platform to share my artistic vision and to gain experience as a young director."

A light-hearted comedy, *Knockers* features a man hosting two missionaries going door-to-door promoting their church. Thomas, the homeowner, throws himself into what they are telling him. His enthusiasm causes the ladies to question their own devotion to the church. At the end, he scares them away with the help of his partner, revealing that they use extreme measures to make sure door-to-door people of all kinds leave them in peace.

Sophia Johnson-Grimes '21 was the director of this show. What drew her to *Knockers* was that it is short, hilarious and impactful. She loves getting these kinds of opportunities, as it can be hard for young artists to get this platform. Johnson-Grimes is grateful that the MTA gives students many chances to get involved.

"[They] gave me a platform to share my artistic vision and to gain experience as a young director," said Johnson-Grimes.

Even though she was the director, Johnson-Grimes likes to be inclusive in her process. She doesn't want her word to be the only one that matters. The production is a team effort, after all.

"I don't want to be the only one with ideas and a vision," she said. "I like to encourage everyone involved to share their ideas and experiences with me so we can learn from one another and work on creating the best art imaginable."

At the Bottom of Lake Missoula, directed by Sofia Barone '22, is a darker show that dives into the struggle of life after a loss. It follows Pam, a college student, trying to navigate day-by-day after losing her whole family in a tornado. The tragedy lurks around every corner and she continued to dwell in guilt and grief. When she finally opens up to a classmate who kept pushing her to share, Pam finally starts to see that maybe she doesn't have to be alone.

In contrast to the larger cast and multiple characters of *Lake Missoula, Counting to Three*, which was directed by Nora Going '22, had a cast of just two characters, one of whom spends the majority of the performance in a tree; he is a shy poet found by his classmate in the park. Mary claims that John is in her "spot" and keeps trying to get him to come down and spend time with her. She comes on a bit strong, and tries all kinds of tactics to get him down. He claims to be afraid of heights, but keeps climbing back up the tree. By the time John finally gains enough courage to come down and spend time with her, Mary is gone, leaving him to wonder what could have been.

Claire Fennelly '22 was the stage manager for *A Long Trip*, one of the productions I didn't see. When asked about what the festival meant to her, she discussed it as a great way for her to keep being involved with the MTA.

"I was able to create great relationships with the director [Emma Müller '22] and those in the cast while furthering my skills in stage management and extending my love for theatre," Fennelly reflected.

One of the neatest aspects of this festival is that every show featured an entirely new cast of performers. Every show gave opportunities for students to shine. This may be just one festival, but each show was its own unique production.

Put together, the individual shows created a magical space of creativity hidden in the basement of Seegers. The Red Door Play Festival is always a wonderful way to unwind in the evening and appreciate the talent that runs rampant across this campus.

from **Artist** page 6

a concrete background usually through collage, using color to promote a theme -- often of identity -- and creating a stencil to promote a message.

This year, from June 27 to mid-August, Bergwerk got to present his impressive work at an independent gallery in a private event space in Manhattan. The 21-year-old, operating under the alias "Soul the Man," named the exhibition "Obviously Not" and displayed around 20 of his mixed media works.

When asked if he was worried about the turnout of his exhibition, Bergwerk responded with, "I had people who loved my work and people who thought I was heading directly to failure. I persisted. I got in contact with some galleries but they don't want to listen to a 21-year-old kid; I persisted. I decided to take a risk ... I owe a lot of credit to my Muhlenberg professor Rita Chesterton of the [entrepreneurial] department, who gave me the tools to create a business of my own."

"For about a year I was sleeping in the toxins of my art," Bergwerk joked.

"I had an opening party with about 80 people," Bergwerk continued. "I reached out to my close friend Matt Civitano ['21], who came to perform with his acoustic guitar for the evening. It was an incredible night of celebrating the arts," Bergwerk beamed.

Bergwerk said that none of this could have been possible without his mother.

"My mother is the one who said I can do anything. She is really the true artist in the family. When she saw the wacky stuff I was doing with art, she encouraged me to go past my comfortable limits. She truly taught me so much."

Bergwerk truly hopes to see art being involved in his post-college endeavors. "I see my future incorporating art; [I'm] not sure how exactly." He adds that his main goal is to reframe how street art is looked at in society. "I would love to get rid of the stigma that street art is bad," Bergwerk said.

Lastly, Bergwerk's dream is to see art be worth more than its dollar value. "I don't think art should only be sold at auctions for millions; it should he hanging in public."

Bergwerk's work is available to view at www.soultheman.com.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Happy birthday, Marti!

We get it, Muhlenberg. You need donations. You need support. You need funds to fund the Muhlenberg Fund. This is perfectly reasonable — you're a private institution, after all. But why, oh why, do you need money from us?

During the 2019-2020 academic year, tuition increased (yet again) to $54,600. A student who lives in a double and subscribes to the Gold Plan will pay $66,635 per year. Students are met with resistance when appealing for financial aid, and their requests for more than one refill of their Wēpa printing budget are rebuffed. 'Berg Bucks and Dining Dollars are confined to swipe cards with no prospect of regaining funds not spent at on-campus establishments.

In short, we're already dishing out a sizable chunk of change to be here, Muhlenberg. Students working multiple jobs to pay their own way through school feel it most intensely. When you frame your requests for students who'll be paying off loans for the next few decades to give even more money to the College as how they can "help celebrate" Marti the Mule's fictional birthday, it's uncomfortably transparent what you're doing. When you install a light show in the lobby of Seegers Union and encourage students to accost each other for donations, it's uncomfortably transparent. When you post on your Instagram story explicitly stating that you "love students who love to give," it's uncomfortably transparent.

We're tired. We're seniors and we're juniors and we're sophomores and we're first-years and we're tired. We've given you everything we have. Why isn't that enough?

An unfarewell to arms

Beloved Op/Editor says, "later, losers!"

By, Will Wamser
Former Op/Ed Editor

How does an era come to its end? How do you wrap up a legacy with a finely-knit bow? How do you say goodbye when you aren't ready to go? Some might say you do it with grace, dignity and poise. But those people never met me.

I AM the Muhlenberg Weekly. For the past two years I have given everything to this paper as the acting Op/Ed (I actually just found out that stands for Opinions and Editorials, they say we teach our kids but in reality, they teach us) Section Editor. Do you know how much blood, sweat and tears I put into this paper? Not literally, of course, but I have been sweating blood from my eyes every day since gaining this position and yet no doctor will see me. Coincidence? Probably. Countless nights I spent hand printing these issues only for the "Editor in Cheese" to distribute the ones we paid to be printed by a professional who uses fancy machines. I have never once been respected in my time here and this is what it has all come to.

In case you're too dull to figure it out, I'm out. They are booting me for a younger model. After this issue I will no longer be working for this lose-paper in any way, except for occasionally writing. The second it became 'inconvenient' for this sham of snooze-paper to keep me around they 'kindly' 'asked' 'me' to 'leave.' A boy, keep in mind that I am just a boy, makes one measly mistake and he gets the can for it? It's. Not. My. Fault. That. I. Brought. Measles. To. The. Office! Get over it already Brooke, be an adult. I already said I would apologize, so why am I seeing any consequences for my actions?

In case you're too dull to figure it out, I'm out.

Let me spell it out for all you jagweeds who think you're better than me for not bringing a largely eradicated infectious disease into the world. I would be happy to apologize to anyone who actually cares. I am a person who was cool enough to bribe my way to becoming the Op/Ed (Opinions and Editorials) section editor for the Muhlenberg Weekly, no one can take that away from me. In a lifetime you can only do so much and you can only pretend to apologize so many times. That is why I'm flipping the script. Despite being forced to step down, I am quitting. That's right, I won't take your fifth severance package. I will walk out of the Muhlenberg Weekly office one last time with my head held high knowing that I stood up for myself and did what was write.

Sometimes in life you have to stand up to those oppressing you. Don't get me wrong, the Muhlenberg Weekly is amazing and the best organization I could have joined. I honestly couldn't have asked for a better opportunity to grow than the one I got when I was asked to become a section editor. But at the same time, the Muhlenberg Weekly used its power to keep me down. I have no examples of them doing this, so you are just going to have to trust me. That is why with the final issue of this semester and the final issue in my heart, I say this to the Muhlenberg Weekly; thank you and eff you! You'll never find another bad boy to rule your paper like I did.

The unique position of marginalized bodies

By Mustafa Hall
Op/Ed Editor

Our bodies don't belong to us. In a society dominated by whiteness, the ownership of our own humanity, of our own race, is under attack. From being stopped by the police because of the amount of melanin our body produces to being systematically shackled in a land forced to become our home, the authenticity of ownership of our own being is nearly stripped and eradicated, leaving behind bloody streaks of half-hearted promises.

Marginalized bodies are in a position of uniqueness, a level of uniqueness unfamiliar and unrelatable to those of privilege. This uniqueness is one that doesn't allow for hiding or erasure of one's skin color, gender identity or sexuality, but rather puts these things that both hinder us and beautify us on display. It's left out in the open, exposed to the air and unprotected from harsh gusts of prejudice that crack and split it. Some gusts are stronger than others, and these strong ones do more than crack and split. They tear. They gnaw. They seek to deprive. For as long as our bodies are living on this earth, we will forever be exposed to this gust.

However, there is one form of protection from this gust: pride. When one has pride, a shield is formed. A shield held together and strong by the calloused and bruised hands of our ancestors. A shield that is within all marginalized bodies, but is often cracked and destroyed by hate. A shield that sparks a light within us. This light takes on the form of a flame, eventually forming a forest fire that destroys the seemingly beneficial seeds of self-hatred and leaves behind nutrients that guarantee security, thus preventing the seeds of self-hatred from sprouting and forming gardens of abhorrence. In the end, pride is what protects us, for if a marginalized body has pride, the gusts of prejudice are gusts no more, but just simple breezes of fresh, clean air.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY
In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY
The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS
The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Pradawny handel

By Paul Alonso
Contributing Writer

Na wciąż-ruchliwej ulicy w tysiącletnim mieście,
Stara kobieta siedzi, jej sękate ręce gestykulują, gdy ona woła:
„Słoneczniki, słoneczniki na sprzedaż."

Ona myśli, że jesteśmy na sprzedaż, ale nikt nigdy nie będzie w stanie kupić naszej duszy.
Należymy do pola smaganego wiatrem, zniszczonego przez wasze niezliczone wojny kontynentalne.
Mamy rosnąć tak wysoko, jak chcemy; aby przebić granicę wysokości.
Nasze złote płatki grzywy trzepocą na wietrze, nasze sztywne łodygi chronią nasze dusze,
ale wy nas ścinacie.

Czego od nas chcecie?
My nie znamy waszych koncepcji polityki, religii, czasu ani pracy.
Mimo że nasze myśli są burzliwe, nie przypominają zgiełku waszych umysłów.

Ale rozumiemy, że
wy tylko nas ścinacie, bo w głębi siebie
wy już się sami ścieliście.

Ręka starej polskiej kobiety drży, gdy nas oddaje,
jej zmarszczki próbują się schować pod chustką.

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this poem!

speaking your language.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

The straight and *Arrow*

A Public Speedy Announcement

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

In other installments of "Graphic Opinions," I've talked about some of my favorite characters, and this week, I decided to look a bit more in-depth into one of them and the character who took up the mantle after him.

Roy Harper has gone by quite a few names as a hero in the 78 years since his first appearance — Speedy, Arsenal, Red Arrow — but I want to focus on his time as Speedy, since the mantle of Speedy, Green Arrow's sidekick, seems to have an interesting trend to it.

In the late 60's, *Green Lantern* was on the verge of cancellation and was given a new writer, Denny O'Neil, who revived the series as *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* with social-activism-motivated stories, one such being the award-winning 1971 "Snowbirds Don't Fly" storyline that changed Roy, and the mantle of Speedy, forever.

The creative team wanted to tackle the increasing addiction problem that was sweeping the U.S. and felt the need to address it in the *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* comic. The cover shows Roy in his Speedy gear, sans mask, after having injected himself with heroin. The two-issue arc was designed to show that addicts weren't "bad" people and that anyone could suffer from drug addiction. While intended to increase awareness, the storyline ultimately came across as an anti-drug public service announcement.

Roy's character has since become defined by this storyline, marking him as a former drug addict who, in storylines throughout the following decades, was able to "get clean," but sometimes still struggles with addiction.

Like the other members of the "fab five" — DC's first five kid sidekicks of Robin, Speedy, Aqualad, Kid Flash and Wonder Girl — Roy was allowed to grow up and eventually shed the name of Speedy in 1993.

In 2001, Mia Dearden was introduced in *Green Arrow* as a runaway who is saved by Green Arrow from a child prostitution ring and discovers Green Arrow's real identity as Oliver Queen. Mia soon becomes Oliver's new ward and convinces him to train her. In 2004, she finally took up the mantle of Speedy and became Green Arrow's new sidekick.

Mia is special not only because she is one of a handful of female characters to take up mantles previously held by men, but also because, like Roy, she has an extremely powerful cover and story-arc that bring attention to members of society who might normally be shunned and shine light on something that media tends to shy away from.

Prior to her becoming Speedy, it is revealed that Mia is HIV-positive, a result of her life before meeting Oliver. She becomes very open about this and even speaks in front of an assembly at her school about HIV and the stigma that surrounds it, making a point to talk about the false idea that her classmates might contract HIV by using the same water fountain as her. As a member of the Teen Titans, Mia specifically talks to her teammates about how to properly treat her should she get injured.

It's through Mia that many readers were introduced to what life with HIV looks like and taught that really it's not that different. She also showed that HIV affects a wide variety of people and that those who live with it aren't "at fault" for having contracted it.

Now, it's no surprise that *Green Arrow* comics would feature such storylines thanks to their history of social justice and activism, a trend that continues today. Roy and Mia may appear as members of the Teen Titans or in other series, but they're both *Green Arrow* characters first and foremost. What is interesting is that over the years the writers have chosen Speedy, not any of the other characters who regularly appear, to be the representation for two marginalized groups.

Speedy is a recovering drug addict and Speedy is HIV-positive, but what's most important is that Speedy is a hero — a hero in more ways than one for the people who see themselves in these characters.

I am melting my brain with Robert Pattinson movies

Do not try to help me, I do not want to stop

By Jessica Bensimhon
Layout Editor

It started two Fridays ago. I was sitting in the dark vestibule of the AMC Classic — theater 14 — waiting for *The Lighthouse* to begin. *Last Christmas* trailers and A24 production logos flashed across the screen, and then, suddenly, there he was. Robert Pattinson, in 35mm black-and-white film, all (hold on, I have to Google this) six-foot-one (SIX-FOOT-ONE?) of him draped in wool and oilskin and tweed.

It was a perfect movie.

I went home. I looked up what the ending meant, as one does when one is totally normal and has zero negative capability whatsoever. As I scrolled through Twitter threads and A.V. Club articles and Letterboxd reviews, the same headlines kept popping up. *Robert Pattinson Is Actually Very Good. Robert Pattinson is Twitter's Latest White Boy of the Month. We Have Entered the RPats Renaissance. I Wish Robert Pattinson Was My Son.* I realized I was living in the middle of a cultural moment — an epoch, if you will — and I also realized I didn't want it to end.

I watched *The King*. Then I watched *High Life*. Then *Life* (regular), *Good Time* and *Rover*. These are just the titles that are built into my current streaming subscriptions for free. Tonight, I'm going to rent *Damsel* on Amazon Prime for $3.99. Eat your heart out, Jeff Bezos. (Seriously, I think you can almost get a bagel for that much on the Upper West Side?)

I've watched RPats's interviews with Howard Stern and Jimmy Kimmel and Variety. I've seen him answer the Web's Most Searched Questions with Mia Wasikowska. Late one night, I punched a Google Maps route into my phone that would direct me to the nearest Barnes and Noble so that I could buy a DVD copy of *Twilight* with his audio commentary on it. I am still looking into making this trip. I am also looking into having my own driver's license revoked.

Am I "into" Robert Pattinson? Not really. Do I want to touch his hand? I dunno, maybe to read his palm or something, if he asked. Do I daydream about locking eyes with him across a crowded room at a house party in BedStuy and knowing, in that instant, that one day he's going to compose a song about me on his Suzuki Omnichord? No, thank you! Any RPats-related fantasies I might have are strictly limited to, like, us participating in the same MFA program and not speaking to each other until the day we graduate, upon which we exchange a firm and respectful handshake. Or him living in the studio apartment above mine, à la *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, except instead of falling in love we simply maintain a pleasant, neighborly banter and also he doesn't make any footfall at all.

I like his nonthreatening, waifish presence. He thinks method acting is for d-bags, and he was suspended from elementary school for trying to stop kids from killing snails in the parking lot. He's a nice boy!

He's weird. He's different. He wrote, directed and starred in a two-and-a-half-minute psychological horror-thriller about his quest to find a hot dog in New York City. He doesn't fit in.

And yet, there's nothing special about him at all. He's a white guy in his twenties in Hollywood. His skincare routine probably costs as much as three of my student loan payments. He probably eats exclusively at Momofuku Gold Bar, the secret 14th Momofuku establishment where all the food is made of gold, and also it only exists inside my dreams. You have to astral project to get in there. They don't even let me in there. His net worth is probably Yes.

Maybe it's this: it is nice to imagine a world in which all the men of Robert Pattinson's demographic *are* Robert Pattinson. Maybe that's why I'm trying to see him in as many roles as possible. RPats as an astronaut. RPats as a cowboy. RPats as the Dauphin of France. RPats as Georges Duroy in the Magnolia Pictures adaptation of Guy De Maupassant's *Bel Ami* — oh, I almost forgot, I watched *Bel Ami*, too. Even Robert Pattinson as a criminal has certain charms. In *Good Time*, he plays a conman named Connie Nikas (a conman named Connie! poetic cinema!!!) with a heart of gold that just makes you think, "Shucks, I'd let this guy grift me any day."

I want to live in that world! A world full of jovial weirdos in expensive jeans. A world in which I, a nervous little lassie all alone in this big scary world, could finally rest easy in the knowledge that Men Are Okay Now. Not necessarily good, but certainly not bad at all. A world full of Roberts.

So, my favorite RPats movie so far? It's gotta be *High Life*. I mean, directed by Claire Denis? Have you SEEN *Beau Travail*?! Anyway, look forward to my next article, in which I rank every character Robert Pattinson has ever played in order of how much I want to invite them to my birthday party.

THE SAGE APPROACHES

By Nicolas Calá

Nic! I have something important to tell you.
Fire away.
You look like a baby who put seaweed on his face because he couldn't grow a beard.
You keep me humble, random child.

Mules find success at Mideast Regionals

By Jordan Fisch
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

At the end of the day, the Mules finished in 25th out of 51 competing schools.

In what was a successful regional for the Mules, Jason Richwall '20 qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships by finishing eighth at the NCAA Mideast Regional. Running a time of 24:57.6, Richwall led the pack on the men's side, finishing eighth out of 360 total runners. Abby Dalton '22 led the women's side by running a 22:47.7, placing 38th out of 349 runners. Although the Mules as a team did not qualify, Richwall was able to earn one of the NCAA berths for individuals not on qualifying teams.

This will be Richwall's first time racing in the D3 championships in what has been a highly decorated career for him up to this point. Once again, running a similar course and the support the team was given proved to be key for the final results. "Being on our 'home' course and seeing friends, coaches and family everywhere was extremely helpful in this tough race," said Richwall. "The familiarity, the training we've done, and the amount of supporters out there really made a difference," he added.

Dalton has similar thinking to her teammate. "I knew the course better than most of the runners there since I have been racing on it since high school," Dalton said.

Being familiar with the course is huge when running, as it enables runners to know the terrain and develop a pattern on how to run the best time. This shows in the results from the regional. The men's team finished in the top half of the regional, placing 25th out of the 51 teams that ran.

The Mules have now qualified at least one athlete for the NCAA Championships in cross country 15 years in a row and 17 out of the last 19 years, showing not only how consistently talented the team is, but also that how no matter what the situation is, the team always finds success. Nov. 16 was not an easy day for the Mules, with the weather below freezing throughout the meet.

"It was one of the harder races I've ran, being very cold and going out in an uncomfortably fast pace," said Richwall. "[However], I trusted the race plan and was able to hang on the whole way," he added.

The speed of the event also added to the difficulty of the day. "The biggest challenge was that the competition was faster than it has been before in my experience," said Dalton.

Even in the tough conditions, Richwall, Dalton and the entire team pushed through thanks to a plan set up before the race. This has been vital for them all season, which has been a highly successful one, especially for Richwall. He is the third Muhlenberg male to place in the top 10 at the regional meet in the last 10 years. Additionally, he has made great strides during his career, improving upon every regional meet in which he has competed. He came in 71st at the regional meet as a freshman, then improved to 49th as a sophomore and finished 41st last year before jumping into the top 10 in Saturday's regional.

The senior is excited to go the Championships and represent the Mules. "After not only qualifying, but getting a big PR [personal record] in the process, I'm honored and excited to see what I can do against the best runners in D3 next week," Richwall said. The NCAA Championships are scheduled for next Saturday at Tom Sawyer State Park in Louisville, KY.

Although she did not qualify for the championships, Dalton hopes to build off this result and go into the next season even stronger. "I hope to train so that I am able to run longer distances at a higher speed," she said.

While Richwall may have been the only runner to qualify for the D3 championships, the future is looking bright for the Mules on both the men's and women's sides of the track team. With runners like Dalton, whose collegiate career is far from over, leading them, the Mules are set for many years of future success, especially if they can improve upon this phenomenal season.

Correction

Last week, the Weekly incorrectly spelled the name of Luca Colestock '22.

We apologize for this error.

On the heels of an outstanding regular season, Juliano '20 helps Mules reach semifinals date

By Rylan DeStefano
Contributing Writer

This past weekend, the Muhlenberg women's soccer season continued after the team won matches against Hood College and Alfred University. Now with a record of 10-6-2 so far this year, the Mules advance to the semifinals and a date with Springfield College.

With the season winding down, six seniors begin their departure from the team. One of these seniors, goaltender Libby Juliano '20, has been recognized for her outstanding achievements throughout the season, receiving an honorable mention on the All-Centennial Conference (C.C.) women's soccer team.

Juliano has been recognized in this conference before, receiving Player of the Week awards during both the 2017 and 2018 seasons. Now, she has an honorable mention to add to her resume. After playing in every game but one last season and lasting 268 minutes at the beginning of the 2018 season without letting up a goal, Juliano has played an immense role in the team's success throughout her four years at Muhlenberg.

"This third nomination for All-Centennial Conference means a lot to me, knowing this was my last season," Juliano said. Ending on such a strong note made the season even more impactful for Juliano.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Libby Juliano '20 (R) and her fellow seniors stand with their families on Senior Day 2019.

As Juliano reminisces about her soccer career throughout her time at Muhlenberg, she reflects upon herself as an athlete. "My soccer career has definitely progressed over the last four years here at Muhlenberg," Juliano said. "I have become a stronger and a more developed individual on and off the field. I have learned so much from my teammates that I'll be forever grateful for."

Juliano admits that she would not be able to succeed without help from her teammates. "I truly believe this nomination goes to the girls on my defensive line, because without them, I wouldn't have the statistics that I do," Juliano said. "I think there should have been many other nominations given out to the players on my team because I know how hard we have all worked to be recognized for our efforts," she added.

It's clear that Juliano values her teammates and their influence on herself and the team as a whole. For her, victory is a team effort, not just something she achieves on her own. With the tremendous success this team has had, Juliano believes there is only a bright future ahead. "Moving forward, my vision and hopes for this team are to simply keep going and working hard. We were very close to making it to the C.C. tournament this year, so I just hope next year they can get there because I know they can and deserve that opportunity," she said.

Although Juliano's career as an athlete is coming to an end at Muhlenberg, her legacy and undeniable achievements will be remembered. Even more than the recognition, though, her tight-knit relationship with the team will be what Juliano misses the most. "The bonds and friendships I have built with my teammates [are] undeniable, and I know they will all be in my life forever," Juliano explained.

A huge reason the ladies find themselves closer to an Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championship was not only the overall team play, but also Juliano's amazing play, seeing as she only allowed one goal during the first round and quarterfinal play.

The Mules' season will continue as they face off in a semifinal matchup on Nov. 23 in Westminster, MD.

Men's soccer advances to ECAC semifinals

By Jason Grant
Assist. Sports Editor

Playing dominant on both sides of the ball, the men's soccer team advanced to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) semifinals on Saturday with two impressive wins. The first victory came against Marymount in a 9-1 rout, as the Mules' balanced attack produced four goals in the first half and five goals in the second half.

Those nine goals are the most ever by a Muhlenberg team in the playoffs, breaking the record of six back in 1988, coincidentally the same year the Mules last captured the ECAC title.

In the quarterfinals, the Mules displayed defensive prowess, winning 1-0 and holding New York University scoreless. They held a 17-8 advantage in shots and confidently held the lead after an early goal.

Ironically, though, a Mule achieved an offensive record, as Chris Richards '23 scored the deciding goal in the seventh minute to give him 30 points on the season, breaking the school record for most points in a season by a freshman. The records and accolades keep coming for Richards, who, last week, was named Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year for his fantastic freshman season.

"Being named rookie of the year was a true honor. For the conference that we play in, our competition is debatably one of the best in the nation," Richards said. "For me to be awarded top rookie throughout the entire conference, it really proves that all the time put in during the offseason and throughout the regular season truly pays off," he added.

The Mules remained undefeated in non-conference play this year, improving to 11-6-1 (2-6-1), showing that they are perhaps among the best in all of Division III, despite missing the Centennial Conference playoffs.

"The ECAC wasn't necessarily our goal at the beginning of the year, but with the way our season has panned out, it is exactly what we needed to take this program one step closer to our goal for the future," Richards explained. "For the seniors on our team, they don't have many more games left, and the rest of the team is just trying to prolong their careers so they have something to look back on and cherish."

And the future looks bright, as another freshman, Taylan Akdag '23, showed his potential by scoring two goals against Marymount. Plus, defenseman Mark Walter '22 was recently named a Centennial Conference honorable mention for the second straight season, and he is confident that this run will propel this young talented core to conference success in the next couple of years.

"With another accolade under my belt, I see myself helping guide the men's soccer team to success in my next two seasons," described Walter. "For me to take the next step, I need to stay dedicated and motivated, while putting in countless hours in the off season with my teammates."

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Chris Richards '23 scored the game winning goal against NYU while simultaneously breaking the Muhlenberg freshman points record.

The Mules will have a chance to capture their first postseason title since they won the Centennial Conference in 2014. They will travel to Owings Mills, MD this Saturday for a semifinal showdown against Widener University. If they win, they could face Kean or Stevenson University in the finals on Sunday. With all the accolades and excitement of postseason success, this team could finish on a very high note. Still, Walters stressed the importance of paying attention to detail.

"We need to stay focused, motivated and confident to have even more success in the semis," Walter said. "But most of all, we need to play with intensity and passion, as we want to send our seniors off on the right note and with an ECAC championship."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Football completes perfect season, draws first round matchup against MIT

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Max Kirin '20 turns his head to make a grab against Dickinson in 2018.

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Football team clinched its first outright Centennial Conference Championship since 2008 with a convincing 52-7 victory over rival Moravian this past Saturday. With the win, the Mules finished the regular season with an undefeated record and drew a first-round home playoff matchup against MIT for this coming Saturday, Nov. 23.

Once again, the Mules dominated both sides of the ball throughout the course of the game. Michael Hnatkowsky '21 continued to shine, throwing the ball, adding five more touchdown passes and breaking his own record for most touchdown passes in a single season, a mark that he set last year.

Tight ends Ryan Curtiss '20 and Chris Hillburn '20 caught two apiece, while wide receiver Nick Ugarte '21 hauled in one. The Mules also found success on the ground, as they rushed for 167 yards. Mark Riggio '20 and James Diggs '21 each found the endzone with a rushing touchdown.

The Mules finish the regular season averaging 41.9 points per game to lead the Centennial Conference. Wide Receiver Max Kirin '20 credits the experience of the offense as well as great team camaraderie as contributing factors to the offense's ongoing success throughout the season and their ability to generate big plays.

"Our offense is a very experienced group. Most of us have been playing together as a unit for almost three years now, and our chemistry and experience is really what makes us so great," Kirin said. "We were able to make lots of big plays against Moravian, and those are the kinds of plays that we pride ourselves on making each and every game. We work hard and push each other during the week and know how to get the most out of each other, which has allowed us to be very successful so far this season."

Defensively, the Mules allowed only seven points to Moravian and limited the Greyhounds' offense to only 150 yards of total offense. Muhlenberg's defense finished first in the Centennial, limiting opponents to just 11.7 points per game as well as finishing second in allowing 270.9 yards per game to opponents. Joseph O'Hagan '20 stated that the Mules defensively have continued to play at a high level throughout the season thanks to trust among the unit as well as their ability to execute their assignments on a weekly basis.

Even after allowing a second-quarter touchdown to the Greyhounds that trimmed the Mules' leads to just a touchdown, the defense regained their composure and kept Moravian out of the endzone for the remainder of the game.

"We have a tremendous amount of trust on the defensive side of the ball," O'Hagan explained. "Each guy continues to do their job each and every week. If you play on the Muhlenberg defense, you know the guy to the right and left of you is gonna do their job every down. It showed during the Moravian game when we gave up a touchdown and then settled in and shut them down for the rest of the game. We all came together, dug in and did our jobs."

Prior to the game, the team's 25 Seniors were honored as part of Senior Day as the Class of 2020 played their final regular season game at Scotty Wood Stadium. The senior class has won 38 games over the past four years, breaking a school record. Kirin recognizes the high expectations his past teammates set as well as the rich football tradition at Muhlenberg as motivating factors to play winning football each year.

"Being a part of the winningest class in program history is very special," Kirin said. "There have been so many talented players and teams that have done great things for the Mules over the years, which makes it all the more special. The older guys we played with early in our college careers set great examples for us on how to win and carry on the Muhlenberg tradition, and we owe so much to them."

Head Coach Nate Milne attributes the Class of 2020's daily effort and leadership as well as their positive impact on their younger teammates as an important ingredient for the Mules' undefeated season.

"Seniors are the foundation of your program. They make everything go. This group of seniors [competes] really hard everyday in practice. That shows everyone else on the team what our expectations are," Milne made clear.

While the senior class set the record for most wins in program history, they accomplished an even loftier goal in winning an outright Centennial Conference Championship. Holding the Centennial Conference trophy at midfield was a monumental moment for the Mules. O'Hagan exclaimed that "it was a dream come true" to celebrate at midfield with the rest of his teammates, since the senior class "has been talking about this moment for the past four years and [has] worked so hard to get here."

The Mules will now turn their focus towards a first-round home playoff game against MIT, the winners of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC). MIT will be one of Muhlenberg's toughest opponents they face this season, as the Engineers have played at a high level throughout the course of the regular season.

This is also the Mules' first non-conference opponent since the first week of the season. Milne believes that if the Mules continue to play the same way they did during the regular season and execute their gameplan, they will have a great chance of winning.

"Our focus is always internal and making sure we are playing our best," Milne said. "We will have a unique game plan for MIT. So long as our team understands their reads and keys, we will have a chance to win."

It's a win or go home situation for the Mules as they host MIT this weekend in the first round of the NCAA playoffs at noon. If the Mules win, they will take on the winner of the Western New England-Brockport game at Scotty Wood Stadium on Nov. 30 in the second round of the playoffs.

Coming up this week in SPORTS

Nov. 22-23

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Neumann
Friday, Nov. 22 @ 6:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Bryn Athyn
Friday, Nov. 22 @ 8:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Delaware Valley
Saturday, Nov. 23 @ 9:00 a.m.
Deitrich Field House

Football
Muhlenberg vs MIT
Saturday, Nov. 23 @ 12:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2019
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 11
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Cartoonist Nicolas Calá '21 is a cut above the rest.

read more on 9

NEWS

A new club has emerged where women unite to prepare for a career in STEM after leaving 'Berg.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

Master Choreographers brings dances created by visiting choreographers and Muhlenberg faculty members.

read more on 5

OP/ED

Jan. 29 was Student Press Law Center's Student Press Freedom Day. What does that mean for a small liberal arts campus newspaper like The Muhlenberg Weekly?

read more on 8

SPORTS

This past weekend, women's basketball partnered with Dr. Denise Wunderler '94 to raise awareness for SUDC in remembrance of Wunderler's daughter, Vienna.

read more on 10

Photo Courtesy of Office of Communications

Dr. Allison Lange (pictured above) presents *Images and the Fight for Women's Voting Rights in the United States.*

Painting a picture of women's suffrage

Dr. Allison Lange kicks off the history department's speaker series

By Corinne Batistelli
Staff Writer

Muhlenberg's History Lecture Series, "A Century of Struggle: Women's Rights Before and After Suffrage," began on Thursday, Jan. 23 with Dr. Allison Lange's presentation: *Images and the Fight for Women's Voting Rights in the United States.* Lining up with the centennial celebration, the focus is on Women's Suffrage and the rights and movements that have followed over the past 100 years. Last year, the History Club went to their faculty advisor with the idea of a program diving into this subject, making the speaker series a student-directed initiative. Dr. Cathy Ouellette, head of the history department, and her colleague, Dr. Jacqueline Antonovich, have spearheaded this series.

"We want to complicate some of the narratives coming out this year for the centennial," said Antonovich. Ouellette added that this will help us "more accurately remember the past."

The question they wish to pose is how we can celebrate this movement whilst recognizing its faults, and how that solution gets used moving forward. A key critique is how the leaders of the suffrage movement left out women of color. The popular women's suffrage narrative is white and Eurocentric.

Dr. Allison Lange, Assistant Professor of History at Wentworth Institute of Technology, focuses on visual debates about suffrage, saying "Images still influence the way we think about gender, politics and power in the 21st century."

The images Lange analyzed were a mixture of portraits and political cartoons and illustrations. Many of these images showed women as having masculine features, outlandish outfits and towering hair, and abandoning their children. One particular image, by Philip Dawe, showed a woman of color looking intrigued by others' actions. Lange explained that images such as these demonstrated a concern that "if women win rights, gender hierarchy will shift, as well as racial hierarchy."

> **"We want to complicate some of the narratives coming out of this year for the centennial."**

Even a century later, the same fears were played upon to shift public thought and opinion. When women started to campaign for more equality, backlash followed. They were shown straying from traditional roles, such as domestic tasks. One image showed a man holding a baby, which Lange joked was "The 19th century version of the apocalypse."

Students shared what they took away from the presentation. Jennifer Sanchez '20 said "The talk was interesting because it discussed parts of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton's lives that are not often mentioned in our K-12 education. One such thing was how Susan B. Anthony went to great lengths to make her image known to us now, 100 years after the 19th Amendment was passed."

When asked to think of a suffragist, the answer usually given is Anthony. As mentioned above, that was driven by Anthony's own motivation. She wanted her portrait to be distributed and to be remembered after her time.

Lange emphasized the political nature of images, explaining that today, social media such as Instagram is used to cultivate a public image.

When the 20th century rolled around, the leading suffragists of the time were working to turn their public image into something more favorable, showing women wanting the vote as soft and motherly, as well as fashionable. While still getting jabbed at through unflattering political cartoons, women like Anthony and Stanton had a very particular vision that they wanted to express. Strategically, they had to cut out some prominent people from the time in order to promote an image that could be adopted by the general public. Anthony realized she had to play to her audience.

In order to be successful in the mainstream of their time, the suffragists left out women of color and men who supported the cause. African-American women did participate in marches, but it is much less well-documented than the participation of white women. Thus, important narratives have been erased from history. 100 years later, the fight for rights has not ended. It may have started with the vote, but women today are still fighting for bodily integrity, which will be covered later in this speaker series.

Hallie Hoffman '22 commented, "It was amazing to hear about the ways in which the women's suffrage movement was influenced, opposed and eventually won through the use of images. When it comes to the women's movement, I think most of us imagine marches and protests, yet very few of us think about photographs and political cartoons ... these were the ways in which many people's opinions were swayed, both for and against the movement. I couldn't believe some of the incredibly offensive and stereotypical views that were widely shared through these images. I think it's really important for us as students to learn about these sides of history that we don't often hear about."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, January 20
Sick Student - 3:34 a.m.
Report of sick student in Benfer Hall. Upon arrival, the student refused further treatment or transport.

Sick Student - 4:34 p.m.
Campus Safety reported to transport a sick student from the Health Center to the hospital.

Tuesday, January 21
Found Property - 8:40 p.m.
Report of found backpack in lower level Wood Dining Commons. Owner later claimed item.

Found Property - 11:33 p.m.
Report of found wallet in Prosser Hall. Item later returned to owner.

Wednesday, January 22
Sick Student - 12:20 p.m.
Report of sick student at the Center for the Arts. Student transported to Health Center.

Thursday, January 23
Found Property - 11:19 a.m.
Report of found passport in Prosser Hall. Owner later claimed item.

Found Property - 11:27 a.m.
Report of found change in Taylor Hall. Items placed in lost and found locker.

Friday, January 24
Bias Report - 10:00 a.m.
Report of flyers found on vehicles, no suspect at this time, investigation to continue.

Saturday, January 25
Vandalism / Criminal Mischief - 12:00 a.m.
Report of damage found to window security screens at Benfer Hall. Plant Operations notified to repair. No suspects at this time, investigation to continue.

Noise Complaint - 12:38 a.m.
Report of a noise complaint at N. 22nd St. Upon arrival of Campus Safety area cleared. Residents spoken to, no further incident.

Alcohol Violation / Public Drunkenness - 2:52 a.m.
Report of intoxicated individual in Seegers Union. Allentown Police Department responded. Cetronia Ambulance responded and transported student to hospital.

Suspicious Person - 6:25 p.m.
Report of suspicious person on Chew Street. Area checked. The reporting party was spoken to, no further incident.

Sick Student - 6:48 p.m.
Report of sick student at house on Chew Street. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Cetronia Ambulance responded and transported student to hospital.

Alcohol Violation / Underaged Possession - 11:16 p.m.
Report of alcohol violation in Prosser Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

Muhlenberg
GENERAL'S QUARTERS

GRUBHUB

Pick-Up is Now Available at The General's Quarters through Grubhub!

Use your dining dollars & berg bucks on the app!

How to Sign Up:

- Download the Grubhub App
- Go to the "My Grubhub" tab
- Sign into Grubhub/Create an account
- Click the settings icon in the top right corner
- Click "Campus Dining"
- Click "Find Your Campus"
- Search Muhlenberg & Click "Add Affiliation"
- Add your campus card
- Begin ordering!

Muhlenberg College Dining

Despite discrimination, commemoration continues on MLK Jr. Day

Alongside screening of *Harriet*, racist vitriol heard in freshmen dorms

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

On Monday, Jan. 20 from 6-9 p.m., Muhlenberg showed a film screening of the 2019 movie *Harriet* in the Seegers Union Event Space to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day and honor the legacy of the civil rights activist with about 150 students in attendance. Starring Cynthia Erivo, Leslie Odom Jr. and Janelle Monae, and directed by Kasi Lemmons, *Harriet* takes viewers on the journey of Harriet Tubman's escape from enslavement towards becoming a fearless conductor on the Underground Railroad.

Following the movie, Muhlenberg faculty members Dr. Emanuela Kucik, Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies and co-director of the Africana Studies department and Dr. Amy Corbin, Associate Professor of Film Studies, led a talk-back group discussion with the audience members.

"We hosted the screening because we wanted to highlight the incredible legacy and work of Harriet Tubman and the robust community of black abolitionists who supported and worked with her," Kucik emphasized. "As such, we thought the screening would be a good way to shine a light on her life and legacy."

Corbin added, "In the spirit of Martin Luther King's legacy, we wanted to foreground a recent film made by a black female director, to celebrate the life of Harriet Tubman, to inform students about her incredible story and the Underground Railroad and to represent what some have called 'a golden age of African American filmmaking' with more films by black directors telling diverse stories in multiple genres than any other time in film history."

"We knew that there were a lot of conversations around the film that we were interested in having with students, such as questions around the role of creative freedom versus historical accuracy in films about real people — and, in particular, films about marginalized groups, the role and impact of film in/on education, the importance of having black women directors in the film industry and more," added Kucik in regards to the talk-back.

"We wanted to engage students in all of these conversations and encourage them to participate in asking questions that don't always have easy answers," explained Kucik. "We hope that students came away from the film with a better understanding of Harriet Tubman's unspeakably important role in black liberation and her utterly amazing life and legacy, the importance of engaging deeply in difficult conversations around art, education and telling stories of black people and communities and the under-discussed role of the black abolitionist community in assisting and uplifting Harriet Tubman. We are all part of a community, and we should all engage in making collective, meaningful change to create a better, more just world."

"We want to encourage all community members to realize the impact bias language has on students' feelings of safety and sense of belonging, as well as their overall academic and personal success at the College."

Just the next day, College officials received a report regarding a racial bias incident in a residence hall on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, involving the explicit use of a racial slur in relation to the holiday. While no one has been charged with violations of Muhlenberg's campus policies, any possible witnesses present were interviewed by Campus Safety. Investigations are still underway, and students with any information regarding the incident are encouraged to come forward at this time.

Allison Gulati, Dean of Students, said in an email, "The purpose of today's email is not only to call out this specific instance, but also to further lift up ongoing concerns about bias language on campus. This behavior is unacceptable and is in direct conflict with the Muhlenberg community values that President Harring recently highlighted in her message to commemorate MLK Day."

"I think it is really important that we don't just stress judicial consequences," Dean Gulati said in addition to the email sent out. "Those are really important and are always part of the solution when a student is found to use bias and harassing language on campus. However, we also need to work on galvanizing our community to not be bystanders and to step up and challenge one another when we hear inappropriate language or witness discriminatory or harassing behavior."

"We want to encourage all community members to realize the impact bias language has on students' feelings of safety and sense of belonging, as well as their overall academic and personal success at the College. We will continue investigating, and if a student is identified, they can be charged with violations of our campus policies," Gulati continued.

The email sent out also provided resources for students to reach out to for support regarding bias, and said, "Words and actions matter. I urge you all to hold yourselves and each other accountable to being more thoughtful and intentional, and consider whether your words and actions reflect our community values."

Fast food made faster

GQ now available on Grubhub

By Skylar Long
Contributing Writer

This past Wednesday, word began to circulate that The General's Quarters on-campus dining option will now be partnering with Grubhub, a food delivery service. This news took many members of the 'Berg community by surprise, prompting questions about who would use this service and how it would work.

Peter Stark, Sodexo Operations Manager, recalled that this new service had been in the works since last spring, when the Student Government Association approached the Sodexo staff in response to student requests for an on-campus food delivery system. After some research and careful consideration of options, Sodexo ultimately decided on partnering with Grubhub because of their mutual partnership with Blackboard, the company behind the school ID system.

"It's a great idea, but I think it's interesting because it's such a small campus in the first place; but, when Grubhub delivers, I think it will be really good for people who are sick or tired. That way, they don't have to walk over to GQ."

Because of Grubhub's partnership with Blackboard, the Muhlenberg community can pay with not only credit and debit cards, but can also use their Dining Dollars and 'Berg Bucks to get their GQ fix. While typically companies like Grubhub, DoorDash and more offer delivery services, Grubhub's delivery of GQ is slated to begin after spring break.

For now, Grubhub's services of GQ will allow the 'Berg community to order and pay for their favorite foods on the Grubhub app, and then pick them up from GQ once the app indicates that their order is ready, allowing customers to skip all of the lines.

In response to who would use this service, Stark said, "I think it will vary by time of day. Faculty and staff might use it more during the day and students at night and on weekends. I could see it being beneficial for groups ordering together and having one person go for the pickup. Customers on the run who want to get their food without waiting in line will also benefit."

When asked about their thoughts on this new offering, some students said that they were eager to try the new Grubhub service, but a few remarked that they would not, especially not without the delivery feature.

A number of first-year students did say that they couldn't really see a point in the service, especially when used just to order ahead and skip the lines in GQ.

"It's a great idea, but I think it's interesting because it's such a small campus in the first place; but, when Grubhub delivers, I think it will be really good for people who are sick or tired. That way, they don't have to walk over to GQ," stated Naama Forman '23.

Some denounced the service as lazy and said that it would seem that the app simply helped customers to avoid social interaction. While initially hesitant, Michaela Morgan '23 did mention that she would consider using the service on a Friday or Saturday night when GQ sees a heavy crowd.

"I don't have Grubhub, but I did see friends use it and it seems super convenient. They just had to go pick up their food, and it was ready for them by the time they got there," said Vanshika Kumar '22.

Giovanni Merrifield '23 said "To be honest, I don't think GQ should be on Grubhub. I feel like people should just be able to walk to GQ, go get their food and leave. It's a waste of money in a sense; Grubhub is making money, but it's a waste of student's money. It's not that far. It's not that deep. I just don't like the idea."

Karly McCloskey // The Muhlenberg Weekly
New Grubhub pickup station in GQ (pictured above).

Jordan West '23 added "When I first saw that GQ was partnering with Grubhub, I said 'We're getting food to our dorms? Like delivery? But, it turns out, that's not even the case, I would rather just, like, go to GQ to get some food." When West found out GQ could be delivering after Spring Break, Jordan said "Okay, now you've got my attention." He said he would "probably" use it then, while Mer-

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Beyond ′Berg: women in STEM

New club creates space for women to come together and plan for their futures

By Samantha Singman
Staff Writer

Allison Bashford ‘20 and the rest of the Women in STEM e-board waited at the front of Shankweiler 440s on Thursday, Jan. 23 for students to come to the first official club meeting.

A few students trickled in, but the board waited to begin the meeting, hoping that more would come soon. A few minutes passed, and suddenly the door swung open, and packs of students entered.

“I think lab just let out,” shouted a student already seated in the front row.

Once everyone settled into their seats, Bashford, the club president, began the meeting. “We think it is really important to foster some sort of community for women in STEM on campus ... to have this group of people who can support one another and provide each other with resources, and our goal is really to create this community here at Muhlenberg.”

Many in the crowd showed their agreement by nodding their heads, waiting to hear what else the board had to say.

“While we have come a long way since the beginning of the century, we are still in a place where there needs to be forward action,” shared Bashford.

Calista Bender ‘20, vice president, explained to her audience that the population of women at Muhlenberg is over-represented and that there is a lot of support for women in STEM fields here, but that is not the reality outside of campus.

“In the real world,” Bender said, “you will start to notice when you go out on interviews and in the groups you walk into that you may be the only woman in the room, and we want to build a community so when you get out into the real world you know what to expect and how to tackle it and why you should.”

This time, almost all the heads in the room nodded, feeling empowered by what they were hearing and the new community that was being formed before their eyes.

In order to start to build that community, more than 30 students split up into smaller groups, with some students whom they knew and others they did not, to share more about themselves and the reasons they joined the club.

Emma Mueller ‘22, a double major in neuroscience and theater, started her group off sharing that she joined “to find a community of people that know exactly what I am going through and can bond with me over everything I have gone through or will.” She explained that sometimes it is difficult going from a science class to a theater class, but that this community will hopefully allow her to find others in similar situations.

While almost everyone agreed, others added their own reasons: “I joined the club to meet new people.”

“When I saw the club at the activities fair, I was like, ‘Whoa, that’s a great idea, why hasn’t this existed before?’”

“I thought it was a great way to empower other women.”

“To prove to the boys who told me that a girl should not be in an upper-level math course.”

The group spoke about their classes and the “trauma” they feel just for being in the room where their general chemistry workshop is. Despite being from different class years and majors in the STEM fields, everyone in the room bonded with the people in their groups.

When the group reconvened, everyone looked to the board as they shared with the club some of the goals that they hoped to achieve and the activities they planned to do this semester. The board feels strongly about fostering a community and, aside from creating alliances with other campus clubs and building support from everyone within the STEM field, they want to host panel discussions with alumni and faculty to help members network, as well as get answers to many questions that they might have about being a woman across these disciplines.

“You will start to notice when you go out on interviews and in the groups you walk into that you may be the only woman in the room, and we want to build a community so when you get out into the real world you know what to expect and how to tackle it and why you should.”

While the whole room loved the ideas of panel discussions, the board also opened it up to the group to hear what ideas they might have. A lot of people suggested bonding nights, as well as creating different groups on social media where they could continue to network and connect throughout their time at Muhlenberg and even after graduation.

The most popular idea, however, was to connect with young girls in the Lehigh Valley community and help them believe that they can also have a future in the STEM field. These women aim to be these young students’ role models and to show them that they can love science and math too.

Photo Courtesy of @Wistematberg on Instagram

Caitlin Segarra ′21, Alison Bashford ′20 and Lindsay Helock ′22 promote Women in STEM.

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rifield maintained that he would not.

While students who do live in the freshman dorms could not necessarily see the value, upperclassmen, particularly those living furthest from the heart of campus, including Ashleigh Correll ’22 and Sophia Caterina ’21, expressed that they thought Grubhub was rather useless without delivery, but were very excited to hear that they could expect deliveries offered soon.

Stark also told The Weekly that though this service is running and will deliver after spring break, that yet another development will occur in the fall. By fall of 2020, Grubhub is set to merge both their public and campus interfaces, which will increase the number of delivery drivers for their latter program, ideally further streamlining the process.

Kyra Dates ‘22 said, “I have to admit that I haven’t looked into it a ton, but from a surface standpoint, it seems good for accessibility purposes, for people who can’t actively come to GQ everytime they’re hungry ... but from a standpoint of people who are able-bodied, it’s a very small campus and I don’t feel as though it’s super necessary, and it does cause people to stay holed up and not doing much. It’s kind of dependent on how you’re looking at it.”

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"Where words leave off, music begins."

- Heinrich Heine

Put a spring in your step with *Master Choreographers*

By Ellen Powers
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg College community will have a fantastic opportunity the weekend of Feb. 6, as the annual *Master Choreographers* dance show is performed in the Empie Theatre. Featuring dance works by two guest artists, Bill Evans and Yoshito Sakuraba, as well as several Muhlenberg faculty choreographers, including Heidi Cruz-Austin, Karen Dearborn, Megan Flynn, Shelley Oliver and Randall Anthony Smith. Audiences will witness pieces from four different genres of dance: ballet, contemporary dance, tap and jazz. Prior to the performances of *Master Choreographers*, the Muhlenberg Weekly had the chance to get a sneak peek at two of the dances that will be part of the performance.

Photo Courtesy of Marco Calderon

Abigail Linnenmeyer '20, Jalil Robinson '22, and Olivia Garcia '20 dance in "For Betty" by Baker Artist-in-Residence Bill Evans.

The piece is all about "the ebb and flow of all the work of the last four years" that Smith has done, and he calls it "not a collection, but a revival."

The first of these dances is "Nightwalkers," choreographed by guest artist Yoshito Sakuraba. Premiering in 2019, "Nightwalkers" was originally performed by the Peridance Contemporary Dance Company. "Nightwalkers" features an ensemble of ten dancers, and it is certainly a piece where each member of the ensemble is crucial to the success of the dance. There are moments throughout in which each dancer has his or her own choreography, but they all must line up in moments where the dancers come together as a group. All the dancers seemed to have strong ownership of their responsibilities, which is particularly notable since they began rehearsing this past fall.

One of the dancers, Heather Downey '20, described the rehearsal process.

"We had an intensive weekend over fall break, dancing anywhere from four to six hours each day," said Downey. "We learned the movement from Sakuraba's assistant Carley and then Sakuraba pieced it together, so we were never learning chronologically. The piece was fully complete after that weekend, so we would meet once a week to run the piece."

Rehearsal director for Sakuraba's dance and Muhlenberg faculty member Randall Anthony Smith explained that Sakuraba usually does not title his work until after the piece has been completed. In the case of "Nightwalkers," the final image of the piece gave him the inspiration for this title. "Nightwalkers" is full of intricate gestures, and, as Smith put it, Sakuraba created a "language for this community of dancers." The foreboding music, push and pull elements in the choreography and mix of fast and slow movements help emphasize the darker themes, weight and emotions that all work together to, fit the title of the dance.

"I want the audience to feel as if they have experienced a wide variety of dance styles and to be craving more knowledge about movement."

An interesting point about Sakuraba's dance is that it doesn't have a particular story that he was trying to tell with his choreography. "This piece was out of the ordinary in that Yoshito never told us what this piece was about, so it was left up to us to interpret the movement. Randall also followed suit, letting us create our own personal meanings for the work, which I think is what makes it so unique," Downey explained.

It is up to the dancers and the audience to create their own interpretation of the work. As Downey hopes, "I want the audience, much like the dancers, to create their own ideas of what the work is about. I want them to be intrigued and thinking about it long after the concert has ended, which I anticipate given how much thought I know I have put into the meaning of this work."

Another featured dance, choreographed by Randall Anthony Smith, is titled "Agape's Touch Beyond Earthly Love." The piece has an ensemble of seventeen dancers, and it is a contemporary dance full of energy and vibrancy. It serves as the third dance in a trilogy: the first work was about the brain/cerebral elements, the second was about the body and this dance is about the emotionality between people from all different backgrounds coming together through their spirituality. This dance was conceived a year ago, and Smith worked closely with sound designer/composer Ian Scot and costume designer Lex Gurst to create the concept of the dance. Smith once called it the "most collaborative work he's done," as he worked closely with the designers and dancers to make the piece what it is today. "Agape's Touch Beyond Earthly Love" is all about "the ebb and flow of all the work of the last four years" that Smith has done, and he references it as "not a collection, but a revival."

Featuring a captivating duet by Jalil Robinson '22 and Morgan Litzenberger '20, the large ensemble of "Agape's Touch Beyond Earthly Love" works together extremely well in keeping the piece exciting and high-energy. They manipulate various costume pieces to "reveal and conceal," as Smith put it, and they maintain the difficult precision of the choreography with mastery. The choreography also features some percussive elements to it like hand-clapping, stomps and hitting the ground, which the dancers must time together to make the moments successful.

If these two pieces are any indication, *Master Choreographers* is sure to be a stellar collection of dances. The audience will have a lot to look forward to and take away from the dances as well. Downey explained, "I want the audience to feel as if they have experienced a wide variety of dance styles and to be craving more knowledge about movement. There are two ballet pieces, a tap piece (that I'm also in) and three other modern dance works that showcase the range of the choreographers and dancers at the college." Audiences will certainly have all of this to anticipate when *Master Choreographers* hits the Empie stage next weekend.

Sculptor Heide Fasnacht reveals the beauty of the unseen

By Danny Milkis
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

Heide Fasnacht presents photos of her own work, as well as the work of others who have inspired her along the way.

The Center for the Arts saw its Recital Hall graced by the presence of enrapturing artistry and engaging cognitive discussion last Thursday, Jan. 23 with internationally recognized sculptor, painter and print artist Heide Fasnacht.

A woman of many trades and skill sets, Fasnacht is primarily a sculptor, and has existing exhibitions on campus, one on each level of the CA building. Outside of the confines of 'Berg, her creative background has earned her a great deal of success in the cutthroat New York art world. Fasnacht has also presented exhibitions in Greece and Spain.

Fasnacht began the discussion with the group of attendees, a mixture of students and visual arts faculty, by asking engaging questions of the group. These included, "How many of you are visual arts majors?" and "How many of you have studied art in museums?" From that point on, the Recital Hall's rows were lined with a sense of fascination, as she began to introduce a series of scientifically and psychologically revolutionary pieces of artistic genius.

Starting from the beginning, Fasnacht began carefully weaving the story of her visionary journey. First, she explained that she has always done a lot of drawing and that this helped to define her identity during her beginnings as a budding artist. Her story began with an original piece known as "The Sneeze," a two-dimensional representation of a person sneezing using only hole-punches to represent the particles. It was at this point that her fascination with creating a diagrammatic visual scope using exclusively pre-digital scientific materials began to emerge.

What especially captured Fasnacht's attention during this endeavor was Sigmund Freud's relationship with the work of Wilhelm Fliess, a young German otolaryngologist and close friend. In their collaborative work together, the two discovered that a sneeze is one of only a few human phenomena that are non-visual yet completely ephemeral. This word is what sparked Fasnacht to continue her projects delving into capturing the feeling behind the sneeze, which led her to illustrate the phenomenon using only an eraser. Using this technique, she transformed the concept of the sneeze into a larger-scale image of a public geyser. Through this design, she was interested in dissecting the ways in which regular people would react to an external ephemeral phenomenon such as a geyser, and took the project as an opportunity to explore even more deeply the relationship between the tangible and the intangible.

From the sneeze and the geyser, Fasnacht's projects began to transform into detailed depictions of disastrous implosions in order to answer branched-out forms of the same initial questions that her sneeze and geyser research sought to address. One of her notable works, known as "Demo," showed the implosion of an Ohio building. Of course, Fasnacht clarified to the audience that "these implosions are not acts of violence, which are easily confused with explosions, but rather ... tools to look at a large solid object that no longer exists, and how this change in physical matter came to be ... a look into the ephemeral nature of this drastic shift."

Her work studying and anatomizing the nature of implosions continued with a sculpture of an exploding plane based on the Hollywood film Air Force One. However, her progress came to a grinding halt due to the events of 9/11, when she stopped working with implosions due to her sympathy and understanding for those who were, like her, living around the World Trade Center and were left in utter shock by the events of that fateful day. She had experienced firsthand how dangerous terrorism had become, and knew that for the sake of her artistic integrity that she would need to shift her attention elsewhere.

Keeping with the same theme of industrial buildings, Fasnacht visited Las Vegas, and decided to focus on post-demolition rubble. Specifically, she placed a great deal of emphasis on the personal items included in the debris, which included a small plastic Christmas tree topper in the shape of a star. Her reasoning for including this was because "buried in the remains of a broken building, you can still find stars. They're not just where you'd expect them to be; they're everywhere. That's when I realized how much the phenomena I've studied are more human than I knew."

Fasnacht then became enraptured by a Martin Kippenberger painting in which a man is seen studying a contraption that makes no sense logically, yet is purported to make complete sense. She explained that, in art history, there is a background of mechanical contraptions as metaphors for sexuality and how we learn to understand what that means to different people.

A newer leap in Fasnacht's career began with a story about the man who invented monkey bars, a mathematician and professor in Tokyo who taught his students about XY coordinates. The students would then climb through his apparatus and learn to feel space, experience thrill and understand vertigo, even without fully recognizing it. Fasnacht took this concept of XY coordinates and symmetry being the gateways to understanding space and equated it to that of the mechanisms of a rollercoaster.

From then on, she created works such as "Desperado," "Alpengeist," "Mystic Timbers" and "Psychlone," which not only depicted the phenomena of vertigo and physically included rollercoaster tracks in the design, but also took inspiration for their names from unique rollercoasters in theme parks worldwide.

At the same time, Fasnacht conducted a series based on damaged negatives and was interested in resurrecting them and using them to access the phenomena of vertigo in the context of a playground swing.

"My work is very process-oriented," Fasnacht explained to the group. "It's like breaking down stomach acids. It takes concepts that are large and difficult to absorb and makes them easily digestible."

Fasnacht's story and the intellectually-stimulating quality of her pieces are representative of the kind of innovation students at Muhlenberg are consistently striving for, and hopefully the artist will return very soon to have another invigorating and thought-provoking conversation with members of the community.

Haley Lester '20 warms up her voice as she rehearses for her senior recital.

Artist of the week: Why Haley Lester '20 is psyched to sing

By Arielle Moss
Arts & Culture Editor

"Music has such a huge impact on the brain and on emotions, which is just so interesting," said Haley Lester '20.

Lester is a music and psychology double major who has embraced the connections between these two disciplines, as she was able to join professor of psychology Dr. Laura Edelman's research group, which investigates the connection between music and social bonding.

Lester, a Soprano 2 singer of classical music from Titusville, New Jersey, started singing in choirs when she was in middle school and continued through high school.

"We all remember [in] elementary school being forced into choirs in fourth and fifth grade, but then, when it became a choice, I just decided to continue doing it," said Lester. "And I've enjoyed being able to grow it as a skill and to develop it more, especially at college where I've been able to get the free voice lessons as a music major. It's been a really great experience."

When Lester came to Muhlenberg, she started in College Choir, but knew she wanted to audition for the Women's Ensemble. In the second semester of her freshman year, Lester was

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accepted.

After she declared her music major, Lester began to take lessons at Muhlenberg during her sophomore year with Patricia "Tricia" Koch Budlong.

"In my voice lessons with Tricia, she'll first warm me up. We chat a little. She always asks how I am to make sure I am healthy, because if you're not healthy you can't sing as well," said Lester.

Lester explained that her goals for the semester dictate the direction in which her voice lessons will be going.

"In previous semesters, I've worked toward student recitals, where I perform one piece at a time," said Lester.

"I wanted to relate it [music] back to my life a little bit and add a little bit of my culture."

A yearly goal for her voice lessons is to prepare for the vocal student juries for vocal students, which occur at the end of every academic year. Additionally, this semester includes the ultimate goal of her senior recital.

Lester's senior recital is set for Sunday, Mar. 15 at 3 p.m. in the Recital Hall. She will be singing two songs in English, the first by Henry Purcell and the second by Benjamin Britten. She will also be singing sets of songs in French and German with her final set in Hebrew, which was her own special addition.

"I wanted to relate [the recital] back to my life a little bit and add a little bit of my culture," said Lester, who will be singing "Five Hebrew Love Songs" by Eric Whitacre.

On the days she does not have voice lessons, Lester practices on her own. However, even when she is not formally rehearsing, she still likes to apply what she has learned from her lessons when she is singing prayers during Friday night Shabbat services at Hillel.

"I enjoy trying to think about things from my voice lessons, like the space you give to notes or putting it up higher for myself just because it's fun," said Lester.

Lester explained that Muhlenberg "allowed [her] to pursue my passion [for music] while still getting an education in it."

"[Muhlenberg has] expanded my knowledge on the subject while also allowing me to have an avenue where I knew I would have a solid career going forward having the double majors of psychology and music," Lester added.

Lester's future plan is to attend graduate school for school counseling, as she was influenced by her middle school counselor to enter a similar field. Graduate school in this discipline still gives Lester the opportunity to connect her music background if she decides to do so, much like the research she is working on currently allows.

To hear Lester's culmination of her music major, be sure to attend her senior recital this March.

Radio Riff-Off Showcase extravaganza

By Katherine Dickey
General Editorial Assistant

Last Friday, Jan. 24, marked the end of a months-long journey for the performers involved in the first annual WMUH Radio Riff-Off Showcase. After months of auditioning and then competing last October for a moment in the lime-light, Radio Riff-Off winner Michael Sova '20 and runner-up and fan favorite Zach Delecce '20 shone on stage.

The Red Door was half-lit when the doors opened at 8 p.m. sharp, the seats mostly shrouded in shadow and the stage illuminated in golden light. There was catering of mozzarella sticks, chicken tenders and other similar snacks, and some sixty to seventy people hovered, chatted and munched away as they waited for the show to start.

"All the stuff I'm about to play is stolen! Plagiarism!"

At 8:30, Michelle Rajan '21, business director of WMUH, introduced the two artists. Delecce took the stage, saying, "I hope you have a good time! If you don't like it, you can yell at us later."

Delecce was dressed casually, but not a hair was out of place as he opened the night by strumming on his guitar and serenading the audience with "Ho Hey" by the Lumineers. He was mostly stoic between songs as he shuffled his sheet music and told us what song he'd be playing next. He alternated between a couple of original songs and a couple of covers of songs like Green Day's "Wake Me Up When September Ends" and "Falling Slowly" from the musical *Once*. His singing voice took on a different quality than his deep speaking voice, with a lovely floating falsetto and some pleasant middle tones. What little he sang in his lower register had some beautiful resonance, and I would've liked to hear more.

After playing for about a half hour, Delecce ceded the stage to Sova, who immediately bounced on stage with his guitar, claiming, "All the stuff I'm about to play is stolen! Plagiarism!" He pushed off the more formal stage and down towards the audience and started some impressive acoustic plucking, sans sheet music. His first song was playful, and he milked it, making funny faces during some lighter phrases to make the audience laugh.

While Sova didn't sing until the very end of this first solo set, he stayed very vocal the whole time. The entire experience was almost like a lecture, with Sova building the sounds of different songs while telling the audience exactly who he was styling each piece after, what to enjoy and why. They took Sova's advice and laughed and chatted back as he interjected throughout his own performance. He finished off his first set by singing a single song, keeping it mostly in his lower range, and while not masterful, it was perfectly pleasant, especially when paired with his awesome guitar prowess.

"I mean it's always really funny seeing Sova's personality come out in his performance," commented Chris Dasaro '20. "I think I've seen him play a million times. I think he becomes more and more comfortable with his kind of quirkiness as a performer. Like he does some schtick before songs, or in between songs he'll crack a few jokes that only Sova would make. So it's funny seeing him really get a handle on his humor."

After this last song, Sova called out to Delecce in the audience, who, seemingly infected with some of Sova's frenetic energy, hopped up to the stage, where the two quickly sorted out an issue of a missing capo and started in on Carole King's "You've Got a Friend," with Sova providing instrumentation and Delecce gifting us with his voice.

It results in palpable chemistry that allows the two to play off of each other wonderfully, both musically and comically.

When the two began to play together, something wonderful emerged: Sova has a bubbly, somewhat chaotic energy about him, and every word he said sounded like he was about to laugh, whereas Delecce is more mellow, with a deep voice to match his larger stature. Delecce gave some balance and structure to the set, yet he seemed to genuinely enjoy Sova's company. It resulted in palpable chemistry that allowed the two to play off of each other wonderfully, both musically and comically. When they played "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals, they alternated phrases with Sova riffing wonderfully on the guitar and Delecce showcasing his dulcet tones, and it just worked.

Photo Courtesy of Ayedin Levine
Winning performer Michael Sova '20 sings and plays his guitar at the Radio Riff-Off Showcase.

Desiree Bsales '20 commented after the performance, "We were at the Riff-Off also, and seeing Zach [Delecce] and Michael [Sova] together, they have a lot of chemistry and a lot of compatibility with their music, so I wanted to see them for a longer period of time ... It was amazing."

After their joint set, Delecce retired to a table in the corner and Sova took over on guitar for one last group of songs. This time, he played a few touching original songs, a Beatles medley and closed with "Stars and Stripes Forever."

Of his own performance, Sova commented, "I had a lot of energy, [and the] crowd responded well. So I think it was almost perfect ... This is my first time performing with somebody else on stage. So, you know, Zach and I have been working for the last few days, like, getting things down. And I think it went really well, you know, a few mistakes here and there. But overall, I'm really happy with how we did."

"It was a lot of fun," said Delecce. "We were both a little nervous just because we never really do concerts like this. But I think it went really well. I think people had a good time. So all in all, I think it was good."

When asked about his favorite part of the night, Delecce paused for a moment before answering, "Probably either playing originals or playing with Sova, just because that's always really fun. And we worked pretty hard on the songs we were doing, so that was a really good time."

Members of the WMUH board assured the audience that Radio Riff-Off will be returning next fall, so stay tuned to WMUH at 91.7FM for more information.

Editorial

#studentpressfreedom

January 29 marked Student Press Freedom Day, an initiative started by the Student Press Law Center (SPLC) towards the recognition and expansion of rights for student journalists. On the SPLC's website, there's an emphasis towards remembering the past and revising the future, namely in terms of legislation. 1988's *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* Supreme Court case, for instance, is presented as a landmark instance of student disenfranchisement: when a student newspaper was blocked from publishing articles that centered on divorce and teen pregnancy, the students took action and sued.

Though various courts flip-flopped on their rulings, The Supreme Court ultimately decreed that the school's censorship was constitutional — because the paper was part of a class, it was not a "forum for public expression" and hence could be censored on the basis that "a school need not tolerate student speech that is inconsistent with its basic educational mission."

Today, a nationwide student movement hopes to open the doors that were closed by *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier* case over thirty years ago. The New Voices campaign has influenced 14 states to pass new laws protecting the First Amendment rights of student journalists — Maryland's New Voices Law, for instance, protects students' freedom of speech, even if their paper is sponsored by the school or part of a class requirement. The law even includes protection for student advisers against school-generated punishment and forbids school officials from limiting stories before they're published, two features that are relatively unique even among states that have passed New Voices Laws.

Unlike its southern neighbor, Pennsylvania has yet to pass a New Voices Law. Though the state does provide substantial protection for student journalists in its Pennsylvania Public School Code, it falls short where Maryland's code rises up: stories can still be suppressed pre-publication, and advisers remain vulnerable to administrative discipline. The New Voices PA campaign is working to change that.

But where, you might ask, does Muhlenberg fall on this sliding scale from restriction to independence? The answer lies in that all-important word in the Pennsylvania code: public. Since Muhlenberg is a private institution, many of the laws protecting student free speech don't apply here — after all, the very definition of private schools exempts such institutions from most governmental mandates, along with governmental funding.

Still, despite its private school status, Muhlenberg has at least attempted to maintain an air of freedom when it comes to the expression of student voices — the school touted its involvement in a First Amendment Forum at Parkland High School two years ago, and has hosted Town Halls in the past that encourage students to air out their grievances to a listening administrative ear. Since The Weekly is a student-run organization not sponsored by the College itself, we are independent from its whims, but dependent upon SGA funding.

So what, for us, does Student Press Freedom look like? Here's what our editors had to say:

It looks like telling the stories that are important to college students.

It looks like transforming ourselves into a vessel for student voices of all kinds — our Op/Ed section is always open — whilst adhering to our principles of respectful speech and inclusivity.

It looks like holding our administration accountable for their (in)actions.

It looks like the ability to tell the truth without worrying about the college's public image.

It looks like sparking important dialogue within the community without fear of shame or constraint.

It looks like learning from our mistakes.

Overall, it looks like everything that The Muhlenberg Weekly strives to be. How can we get closer? Let us know!

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

私の日本のアンチファシスト経験

By Emily Drake
Senior Staff Writer

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

アンチファシズムはファシズムの反対です。ファシズムは右翼のナショナリストの政治のイデオロギーです。ファシズムの一番分かりやすい例はドイツのナチズムです。しかし、今もファシズムは世界的な問題です。例えば最近、アメリカで色々「ALT-RIGHT」というファシストな集団をよく活動しています。アンチファシストはこんな集団を全力で反対します。例えば、アンチファシストはファシストの身元をみんなに分かるようにしたり、デモンストレーションを反対したりします。

日本にもファシストの集団があります。最近、よく活動している集団は２００６年に始まった在特会という集団です。この集団が日本人は一番最高の人種だと信じているので、日本に住んでいる外国人が嫌いです。特に韓国人が大嫌いです。この集団はヘイトスピーチをするし、ヘイトクライムをするし、意地悪です。この集団のリーダーは桜井誠と言います。桜井さんは在特会を降りてから、２０１６年にファシストな日本第一党を始めました。日本第一党はジャパンファーストパーティーと呼んでいることもあります。この間、日本第一党は慰安婦の展覧会を反対しました。慰安婦というのは、第二次世界大戦の時に、日本人の兵士に何度もレイプされた韓国人の女子です。慰安婦がいたことは事実ですが、桜井誠と同じ考えている人はその事実を信じていないので、慰安婦のことに反対しています。

２０１９年１０月２７日に、名古屋に日本第一党は名城公園でデモンストレーションをして、桜井誠は自分の展覧会をしました。前に愛知県で慰安婦の展覧会があったので、慰安婦が嫌いな桜井さんはアーチストじゃないのに、自分の展覧会を発表しました。それで、日本の CRAC という集団はカウンターデモをしました。CRAC は「Counter Racist Action Collective」と言います。CRAC のウェブサイトによると、この対レイシスト行動集団は街頭行動、言論、アート、音楽などレイシズムに反対します。カウンターデモの前に CRAC のメンバーに会いました。CRAC の皆さんはメガホンやプラカードを持って来ました。最初のヘイトデモが始まってから、ファシストはひとつのメガホンでヘイトスピーチをしました。しかしカウンターデモの皆さんはたくさんのメガホンで「レイシスト帰れ」と言いましたからヘイトスピーチが聞こえなかったです。ヘイトデモをやめるために、カウンターデモのみなさんはヘイトデモの前に座り込みました。警察はファシストを守りましたから、私たちはヘイトデモをやめさせられませんでした。でも、公園で遊んでいる子供たちにファシストのヘイトスピーチが聞こえなかったから、カウンターデモは勝ったと思います。

その日、最初のカウンターデモは勝ちましたが、次のカウンターデモは負けでした。カウンターデモの皆さんは桜井さんのヘイトスピーチの展覧会を取り止めたかったけど、取り止められませんでした。「ウィル愛知」という建物で展覧会を開いていました。そこは女の人と子供のために政府が立てた建物ですから、そんな所でヘイトスピーチが全然できないのに、建物は桜井誠の展覧会を中止しませんでした。皆さんはがっかりしました。しかし、朝日新聞によると、１０月２９日に愛知県の大村秀章知事は桜井誠の展覧会はヘイトと言いました。しかも、大村秀章知事が愛知県は桜井誠に訴訟を検討していると言いました。カウンターデモは失敗じゃありませんでした。

ファシストは最低ですが、日本のアンチファシストに会えてよかったです。その日の経験から色々習いました。言語は違いますが、アメリカでも日本でもファシズムと戦う気持ちは同じです。

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

To the ones who cry "it's N***** day"

By Mustafa Hall
Op/Ed Editor

To the one who cried "it's N***** day," you got what you wanted. I heard you. We heard you. I hope the words you chose to spit from your noxious mouth made you feel some kind of pleasure. I hope they brought to you a feeling of elation, in some way.

I hope they allowed you to look at your reflection and scrape within yourself some kind of pride.

I also hope you lay awake. Listening.

Listening to the screams of horror that mimics the same screams we hear within ourselves when hearing N*****. I hope those screams ran through you, pounding your insides to be heard.

I hope you got to feel the heart-squeezing pain of hearing a white-bodied individual recite the one word you dare not utter yourself.

I want you to know how I felt.

I felt scared.

I felt the comfort that I worked so hard to construct within myself collapse and be spat on by your hands.

I felt alone. Alone with my own mind, which became polluted with fear.

Imagine arising to a word charged with the moans of your people.

N*****.

Imagine navigating a foreign land and being forced to interact with the coward who despises you.

N*****.

Imagine having your mind be submerged in an ocean of true and raw fright. Fright unknown to you before today because all your life, your being was encased inside a bubble of color, attacking any white that entered.

N*****.

Imagine having your body stunned from disgust. But not from the word. No. Not the word, but rather from the mere fact that this coward saw it ok to have that word, out of all days, crawl from their belly, scrape their tongue and expel from their mouth like arrows.

That's the most chilling. I can handle the word. I must.

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College

What I can't handle, but I must learn to swallow, is your entitlement.

To the ones who cry "it's N***** day," I'm disappointed, but shocked I am not.

I will take this word, N*****, and allow it to course through my veins and rebirth my pride in my blackness.

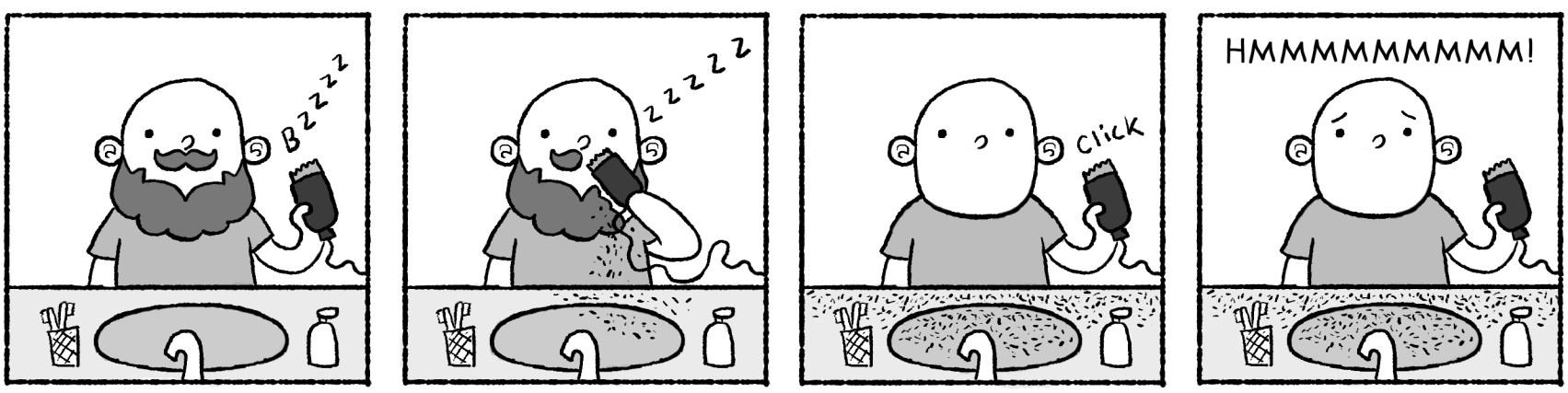
To the ones who cry "it's N***** day," I refuse to give you the power of control over my worth and most importantly, my body.

I won't give a white-bodied individual that.

Not this time.

JUST A SHAVE

By Nicolas Calá



Women's basketball helps former player in fight against SUDC

Dr. Denise Wunderler '94 returns to 'Berg to raise awareness

By Alex Blum
Sports Editor

This past week, the Muhlenberg women's basketball team successfully completed a slam dunk. While achieving many great things so far this season, the squad carries that with them beyond the court. Always looking for ways to engage with the world around them as well as with the Muhlenberg community at large, the ladies once again found an incredible opportunity to work alongside Dr. Denise Wunderler '94.

"Our program is about a lot more than just the performance we have on the court ... [it is also about] the positive impact we can make in the community and other people's lives off the court."

A former Muhlenberg basketball player herself, Dr. Wunderler, now working as a physician for USA Volleyball, also works to raise awareness for SUDC, or Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood, which all spurred from a shocking and saddening family tragedy.

On Nov. 12, 2017, Wuderler and her husband lost their healthy two-year-old daughter, Vienna Carly Savino, to SUDC. Not until this tragic moment did the two learn what SUDC was.

Ever since that day, Dr. Wunderler has been passionate about raising awareness of this phenomenon, for even though SUDC affects children from ages one to 18 years of age and is the fifth leading cause of death among one to four year olds, it receives very little attention from the medical community.

Wunderler's initiative came to life when she founded "Team Vienna 4 SUDC Awareness Inc" on Jan. 19, 2019, what would have been Vienna's fourth birthday. Along with enhancing awareness, the goal is to increase research efforts, with the hopes of ultimately unearthing the causes as well as preventative measures so no family has to suffer the loss of their child.

Fortunately for the Mules, getting involved with the Dr. Wunderler's project fell right into their laps when she reached out to Coach Ronald Rohn, and the stars of Muhlenberg women's basketball are certainly glad she did.

"The women's basketball community for Muhlenberg is very tight-knit and like one big family," said forward Madison Kirchofer '20, "so when we heard that Dr. Wunderler wanted to share her message with us and the community at our game last Saturday, we were very willing to help in any way we could and proud to represent such a powerful cause."

For guard Ashley Polera '20, taking this moment to step back from the hardwood to help a former player was truly special. "This was an eye-opening and very fulfilling initiative for our team to get involved with. Our program is about a lot more than just the performance we have on the court ... [it is also about] the positive impact we can make in the community and other people's lives off the court," Polera said.

The sport of basketball, even at a school as small as Muhlenberg, is as intense as it comes. However, Kirchofer realizes that the sport that the team as well as Dr. Wunderler love has a much bigger role to play. "To take a moment and step away from the court and realize that us playing basketball could be so much more than just a game, but [could also be] a way to help spread awareness for a condition that has such little research and recognition was something that our team was extremely lucky and grateful to be a part of," Kirchofer said.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

This past Saturday, Muhlenberg women's basketball honored Dr. Wunderler's daughter, Vienna Carly Savino, and the campaign against SUDC.

"Play for ourselves, play for our teammates and play for Vienna because she will never have the chance."

The experiences of Dr. Wunderler and even the memory of Vienna has taught Polera and the entire team some valuable lessons. "You have to live life in the moment and cherish the people around you while you still have them," Polera summed up. "Life works in very unexplained and unexpected ways. The little issues we deal with on a day-to-day basis are so minuscule in the grand scheme of things."

Prior to Saturday's tip-off with Gettysburg, Dr. Wunderler shared powerful words with Kirchofer and the rest of the group. "Play for ourselves, play for our teammates and play for Vienna, because she will never have the chance," Kirchofer remembered.

"I was honored to meet Dr. Wunderler, who is one of the strongest and most inspiring women I have ever met," Kirchofer further reflected.

As the fight to find answers for SUDC continues, so too does the mission of Dr. Wunderler with 'Berg basketball always there to assist.

from **Lacrosse** page 12

are eager to reapply these lessons in this upcoming campaign. However, since it is such a tough conference, doing so is going to be highly critical.

"Every year our conference is very competitive, so making it to the playoffs is always difficult," said Friedel. "When we made the playoffs my freshman year, our team had a lot of veterans on the field who had been playing together for multiple years, and they had a lot of chemistry. After multiple key players graduated, we had big shoes to fill, and this year we're hoping to recreate a similar team dynamic [to what] we had in 2017," she explained.

However, as the 2020 season approaches, the loss of eight valuable veteran players will be felt strongly. Even so, Friedel's positivity and confidence has not wavered one bit. "After losing eight seniors and some of our best players this year, we see this as an opportunity to start from scratch and develop a new dynamic," she said.

"This year we want to try to keep the momentum going throughout the entire season."

Segrave also believes that this year's team is more than ready to hold its own, even with the loss of veteran talent. "I think this year we are ready for the competition. We lost some key players all over the field, but I have seen all of our players step up to fill that role," said Segrave.

"Even the freshmen are gaining the confidence they need to start playing right away. We were nervous at first with how the gaps were going to be filled, but many players have taken it upon themselves to step up and be what the team needs. We are always looking to improve from year to year, so we just hope to be better than last year and make it to the playoffs," Segrave added.

For Crivelli, though, there is only one goal for this team. "My goal, and definitely the goal of many others, is to make it to the Centennial Conference playoffs. The team hasn't made it there since my freshman season, and if we capitalize on the strengths of the team, it is not out of the question."

With the Feb. 25 start date quickly approaching, the team can feel the excitement in the air. "We're excited to just get back to playing again," Friedel said. "Our team is very close, so we're ready to just have fun and play lacrosse with our friends on Frank Marino Field. I can't believe it's already my last season, but the other seniors and I are ready to go out with a bang."

Segrave could not agree more with that sentiment, adding, "I am excited to be on the field with my best friends again. Playing field hockey, I don't get to see my lacrosse teammates in the fall as much, so I am ready to finish my athletic career out with these girls. This will be my eighth and final season as a Muhlenberg athlete, so it's bittersweet in that aspect, but I'm ready to start competitions and leave it all out on the field," Segrave reminisced.

This is Crivelli's favorite time of year. "The season is quickly approaching, and that means I get to spend more time with many of my good friends," she said.

The 2020 season looks to be an exciting one for this team, and they cannot wait to get on the field and show off their amazing talent. The squad's journey to another Centennial Conference Championship kicks off in a non-conference matchup with the Misericordia Cougars on Feb. 25.

Muhlenberg men's lacrosse reaches for new heights

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

After posting back-to-back double-digit-win seasons, the Muhlenberg men's lacrosse team hopes to earn a trip back to the Centennial Conference playoffs for the first time since 2008.

"I would say as a young team we have gained more experience, chemistry, and discipline."

With a core group of returners on both the offense and defense as well as a promising collection of newcomers, expectations are higher than ever for the 2020 season. During the pre season, the team has devoted much of their time to strength and conditioning, as well as improving basic skills.

Midfielder Frank Caterina '20 stated, "Every year we have tried to dedicate more of our time and energy to preparing out of season...this past pre season has not been an exception." Caterina credits the team's off season workouts with strength and conditioning coach Darin Thomas as an important ingredient for a successful regular season.

Fellow midfielder James Dalimonte '22 also recognizes that the team's high expectations have pushed them harder than ever in their off season training and attributes their success to new training programs that help improve vital skills. Dalimonte recognizes that "a weakness that we have is staying with the fundamentals. Throughout the course of the season, it is very easy to get away from the basics, so we have implemented wall ball and certain training techniques to keep us on track," he said.

Caterina praises his teammates' devotion to these new training mechanisms, as players hit the wall and practice their stick skills on their own time. With many experienced returners on this year's roster, the Mules hope to continue their winning ways and play in the competitive Centennial Conference Championship.

Dalimonte notes that "one strength we have is we are returning almost all of our starters, who each contribute in their own way." Both Ethan Grossman '21 and Dalimonte hope to continue to be two of the top offensive threats in the Centennial Conference, as they have each received multiple conference honors since they arrived at Muhlenberg. Dalimonte also

"Every year we have tried to dedicate more of our time and energy to preparing out of season."

received an All-American honorable mention from the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association last year.

Scott Fayan '20, PJ Lombara '21 and Jake Whittingslow '20 also return as top offensive options for the Mules. Matt Hager '21, Kyle Lando '22 and Alexander Giaquinto '21 return to the starting lineup as the Mules' top defenders, while

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Entering the 2020 season, the Mules look to make their first Centennial Conference Playoff appearance since 2008.

midfielder Frankie Feaster '21 looks to continue dominating the X and building on his program record for career faceoffs won. Garrett Pope '20 returns for his third season as the Mules' starting goalie and looks to build off of a successful 2019 campaign in which he earned a spot on the All-Centennial Conference second team.

While the roster is overflowing with talent, Caterina finds that this year's team has taken on new leadership roles and exclaims, "We have current players that are maturing into promising student-athletes with skill and leadership."

Even with many key contributors returning and stepping up into leadership positions, both Caterina and Dalimonte recognize the immediate impact the freshmen class will have on the team. Caterina acknowledges that the newcomers will "fill some holes positionally," while Dalimonte remarks on the advantages of having a young group.

"I would say as a young team we have gained more experience, chemistry and discipline," said Dalimonte. "We have freshman players who have elevated the competition in practice and who are looking to contribute in a big way this year."

The Mules open up the season on Feb. 15 on the road at FDU-Florham and play their first home game the following week against Scranton. Conference play opens up with a home game against Haverford on Mar. 25.

The Playoff Push: men's basketball sits in 4th but faces tough remaining schedule

By Jason Grant
Co-Sports Editor

After a stunning loss to Franklin and Marshall on Jan. 18, the Mules notched two big wins over conference opponents Gettysburg and Washington College last week. The men's basketball team is currently sitting at 13-4, already improving on their win total from all of last season.

"We know when we play our best we are capable of competing with any team in our conference, so any win definitely gives us confidence."

Last year the squad got off to a hot 6-2 start in what appeared to be a playoff-bound season. In the second half of the season, though, a few lackluster performances cost them a spot. They finished 9-9 in conference play. This included two losses each to rivals Gettysburg and Washington College.

On Jan. 22, Washington College traveled to Allentown for their second matchup of the season. The contest featured stellar performances from the sophomores on the team. Reigning Centennial Conference player of the week Dan Gaines continued his excellent form, leading all Muhlenberg scorers with 15 points and even making five assists. Nate Henty Brown '22, Dallas Hoffman '22 and Noah Watson '22 continued the sophomore surge with all three scoring in double figures as well. The game started to tighten up with only 6 minutes remaining, but the Mules were able to seal the win with a steal and a breakaway dunk from Michael Morreale '21.

Gaines won Centennial Conference Rookie of the Year last season and has shown no signs of slowing down.

"We have just been taking one practice and game at a time. We understand that we can beat or be beaten by any team in our conference on any given day," Gaines expressed. "We do not want to take any team lightly. Knowing the playoffs are within reach has just given us more determination to work harder and reach that goal, especially knowing in the back of our minds that we came up just short last year."

"We have just been taking one practice and game at a time."

Although they suffered losses against Gettysburg last year, the team had no trouble with them this time around. The Mules defeated Gettysburg this past Saturday by a decisive 71-55 final score and were lead by Hoffman's 18 points. Gaines added 10 points in another solid effort.

"I think the keys to our victories against Washington and Gettysburg [were] to just stick to our game plan and trust our teammates," Gaines explained, crediting the team's resilience. "Coach Hopkins always talks about making the extra pass and being there to help your teammates on defense, and I thought we did a great job with both those things in our games this past week."

The Mules currently sit in fourth place in the conference with a 6-4 record, trailing only Johns Hopkins, Swarthmore and Haverford. All three are on the Mules' remaining eight-game schedule in which they will play solely Centennial Conference opponents. They are currently two games above fifth-place challenger Gettysburg, who they will face in their final game of the regular season, and will no doubt carry confidence from their previous encounter into this one.

"We feel as though every conference win, whether it be against the first- or last-place team, is extremely important for our confidence and belief going forward," Gaines stressed. "We know when we play our best we are capable of competing with any team in our conference, so any win definitely gives us confidence."

The Mules go on the road this week, traveling to Dickinson on Jan. 29 and following up with a huge game against second-place Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse Expects Big Things for 2020

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Jordan Segrave '20 extends for a save in 2019.

Excitement is in the air as women's lacrosse plays their first game of the new decade

By Jordan Fisch
Staff Writer

With their season set to begin on Feb. 25 against Misericordia in Dallas, Pennsylvania, the Muhlenberg women's lacrosse team is looking to build off their 8-8 season from last year and make an impressive run.

One key reason for the underwhelming record in 2019 was due to a loss of momentum. "Last year we started the season out strong, but we lost momentum towards the end," said Victoria Friedel '20. "This year we want to try to keep the momentum going throughout the entire season."

Although their record was not where they had envisioned it, Jordan Segrave '20 sees the positives gained from last year that can be brought into the season ahead.

"I think we gained a lot of experience from last year and know exactly what we need to work on as a team to succeed this season," said the senior netminder. "We are working hard in the offseason and taking this time to establish that trust that we had in each other in 2017," she added.

"I think this year we are ready for the competition. We lost some key players all over the field, but I have seen all of our players step up to fill that role."

Gabriella Crivelli '20 also found an upside to last year's disappointing results. "When looking back on last year, although we didn't finish the season as we would have hoped, there were many positive takeaways," Crivelli said. "The first of these is accountability. When someone recognized that they needed to work on a particular skill set, they carved out the time in their busy schedule to practice on their own. This is a huge component of getting better and improving even when no one is watching. Secondly, many people stepped up in moments where injuries were abundant, and that just emphasizes the values of a true team."

With the work they put in in fall ball and with practices beginning Feb. 1, the team is looking to gain momentum and string together some wins with the hopes of making their first Centennial Conference playoff appearance since 2017, when the Mules suffered a first-round exit against Franklin and Marshall.

Friedel and her teammates

see Lacrosse page 10

Coming up this week in SPORTS
Feb. 1

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Brockport
Saturday, Feb. 1 @ 11:00 a.m.
Worcester, MA

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Roger Williams
Saturday, Feb. 1 @ 1:00 p.m.
Worcester, MA

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Feb. 1 @ 2:00 p.m.
Baltimore, MD

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Feb. 1 @ 4:00 p.m.
Baltimore, MD

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Don't touch that 'dile! Stick around for the latest by cartoonist Nicolas Calá '21.

read more on 9

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NEWS

The Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding refocuses their mission on understanding religious diversity in order to cater to a changing student body and community.

read more on 4

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

ARTS & CULTURE

Trexler Library is allowing students to experience rare books, to learn about the history of women at Muhlenberg and soon will have an exhibit that showcases the history of LGBTQ pride in the Lehigh Valley.

read more on 5

OP/ED

Read the Muhlenberg Weekly editorial board's take on this week's caucus catastrophe!

read more on 8

SPORTS

After a successful year in 2019, Muhlenberg baseball is back with more emerging talent and higher expectations for the new decade.

read more on 11

New year, new moon

ASA ushers in the Year of the Rat

read more on page 5

PHOTO COURTESY OF MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

Just a little "off the top"

Board of trustees vote removes SGA budget authority, reallocates surplus funds

BY BROOKE WEBER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a recent email, Dean of Students Allison Gulati informed the student body that the allocation of money from the College's Student Activity fee would be changed as per the latest Board of Trustees meeting. This change will not only switch up the way that club budgets are approved, but will also determine the placement of the $112,000 surplus in activity fee funds that the Student Government Association (SGA) possessed.

The Board of Trustees voted on the policy this past weekend, just days after SGA members were informed of its existence. Prior to the Board's vote, two separate fees, one $195 charge that went directly to SGA and one $90 charge that went to the College, were included on each student's bill. Groups like WMUH, Muhlenberg Activities Council (MAC) and The Muhlenberg Weekly are considered "off the top," meaning they are currently allocated a set budget every year that is taken from SGA's portion of the Student Activities fee before the other hundred or so groups on campus can make requests from the rest.

Now, though, the two fees will be combined into one $285 charge. Student groups will also be required to submit budget proposals and the rationale behind them, even groups that are traditionally "off the top." Though "off the top" groups will retain their status as such through the transition, there will be an opportunity for said groups to restructure their budgets or lose their "off the top" status. On the other hand, according to the policy's proposal, student organizations that might not have historically claimed "off the top" status will have the chance to do so.

The power to reallocate funding to current off the top groups and to designate new ones, though, is by no means an invention of the new policy — it has always belonged to SGA.

While Gulati stresses that this new proposal will help bolster the College's initiatives towards equity and inclusion, not all SGA members are on board with the new policy, as it moves a substantial amount of budgetary power away from the group as a whole.

"We have the ability to designate new off the top groups. We're currently in the process of it," said SGA Campus Outreach Chair Nicholas Gregg Rubingh '20, "so this new process doesn't make that easier. It just means students have less of a say in that."

This change comes in the wake of SGA's recent movement towards the Student SCORE Form method of fund allocation, which, according to Rubingh, encouraged more spending among student groups — with no budget to present before the beginning of the year, non-off-the-top student groups asked for funds when necessary. Resulting in SGA cutting into about $9,000 of their reserve money on behalf of student group requests. Rubingh projects that, had the budget allocation continued on its current course, much of SGA's $112,000 reserve would have been used naturally by student groups over time.

SGA Treasurer Nicholas Blue '20 also felt that the new budget requirements represented a step backwards.

"Recently, the budget system for all clubs and organizations was abolished, with the exception of our off the top groups," Blue said. "Ironically, this was because many groups did not spend the full amount we gave them! Therefore, the decision for all clubs and organizations to revert back to the old model seems unnecessary and counterintuitive. For example, of the thirty-one clubs and organizations that did not send representatives to the mandatory leadership retreat, only three of those clubs actually requested funding from the prior semester. Personally, this shows me that our current model is more effective, and our money is better managed."

As per the new policy, a committee made up of three students, Gulati and the SGA Advisor will determine budgets and "make recommendations to the President, Chief Business Officer and the Dean of Students about the allocation of the fee money based on the proposals

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, January 27

Welfare Check - 5:40 p.m.
Report to locate student at Taylor Hall. Contact made by Campus Security, no further incident.

Wednesday, January 29

Injured Employee - 3:30 p.m.
Report of an injured employee at New Science Building. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Individual transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Thursday, January 30

Suspicious Activity - 2:30 a.m.
Report of suspicious activity at other location, investigation to continue.

Friday, January 31

Suspicious Person - 2:08 p.m.
Report of a suspicious person on North 23rd Street. Individual located and observed leaving campus, no further incident.

Trespassing - 2:08 p.m.
Report of trespasser at Walz Hall. Individual left the area, a letter of no trespass will be issued.

Drug Violation: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 9:02 p.m.
Report of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia at Martin Luther Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to. Items brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence.

Noise Complaint - 11:01 p.m.
Report of noise complaint on Turner Street. Individuals identified and spoken to. No further incident.

Saturday, February 1

Found Property - 4:00 a.m.
Report of found phone in Seegers Union. It is unknown to whom the item belongs, so the phone was placed in the lost and found locker.

Sick Student - 12:56 p.m.
Report to transport a sick student to hospital from off-campus location.

The General's Quarters Presents:

The Spring Vendor Fair

Muhlenberg GENERAL'S QUARTERS

Friday, February 21st, 2 pm – 4 pm
Seegers Union

Raffles, Free Samples & More!

Former prof. returns to campus to talk MLK

Justin Rose just in time for the start of Black History Month

By Cydney Wilson
Co-News Editor

In 2013, former Muhlenberg professor Justin Rose gave a keynote address on campus, discussing the need for Muhlenberg to diversify and increase inclusion.

This week, Rose returned to campus to present his work on *The Drum Major Instinct: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Theory of Political Science.* The lecture was attended by President Kathleen Harring, the entire Political Science Department, Dean of Academic life Michele Deegan and many members of the Africana Studies Program. Rose, who is currently an Associate Professor of Political Science at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, taught as a visiting professor of political science and Africana studies at 'Berg from 2012-2013.

Rose explained that Muhlenberg "helped me develop a love for the liberal arts." Having previously desired to teach at bigger institutions, Muhlenberg helped Rose realize, "you don't have to go to a large institution to make a big impact."

After Congress designated Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a day of service in 1994, Rose lamented that there has been an "apolitical celebration of the King holiday," which erases King's "radical" views about political service in America.

"You don't have to go to a large institution to make a big impact."

Rose spoke about the quote once present on the MLK Jr. memorial in Washington D.C., which said "I was a drum major for justice, peace and righteousness." Rose explained that this quote had been taken out of context, as it had originally said "If I was a drum major..." thus altering the perception of King, who according to Maya Angelou, then came off as an "arrogant twit."

After Rose spoke about his book, he took questions from the audience. One student asked a question about racial inequality today. Rose responded saying that the country has begun moving backwards since the Civil Rights Era in terms of income inequality, housing insecurity and more. Rose who had not visited Allentown in 7 years, then proceeded to comment about his surprise at the changes downtown Allentown has undergone, saying "Who did they displace to build up Allentown?"

Melissa Reph / The Muhlenberg Weekly
Justin Rose speaks in Seegers Union's Great Room.

Political science professor Giacomo Gambino asked, "What lessons do you have for the practice of political rhetoric today?", to which Rose responded "[Martin Luther King Jr.] found a way to finesse the language that made it more relatable but no less potent."

From **SGA** page 1

submitted," according to the proposal.

Two of the students within the committee will be members of SGA: the SGA treasurer and another interested member. One "at-large" participant will be chosen from the rest of the student body via an application process.

"Some of the things we know are that underrepresented students do not make up a large majority of the SGA," said Gulati. "So we really want to make sure that we get out to that population very clearly — through multicultural life, through different mechanisms, through all of the cultural clubs, just get the information out — that there is this opportunity. We want someone who's willing to educate themselves on the process and the needs of lots of groups, but also who has a broad understanding of what it means to be equitable in this process and can bring that voice to the table ... ideally someone who is connected to a totally different sphere of people than what SGA has been or might represent. And my sense is, ideally, I would like the person to be serving a two-year term. It's an awesome leadership responsibility."

Rubingh, though, isn't so sure that the new committee will raise up student voices.

"Instead of it being up to all 22 members [of SGA] to talk about and argue for and agree on a budget, it would just be down to the two representatives who happen to be on the committee, which would determine the entire budget for SGA, which is a major consolidation of power and just a few students," Rubingh said. "And even then ... SGA [would] be a minority on a committee of five."

Some students, like Michelle Rajan '21, are also skeptical about how student-oriented the new policy really is.

"I really appreciated how the point of SGA is giving students this responsibility and autonomy over this money," Rajan said, "so even though I appreciate that the college is, I think, trying to take on a hands-on role ... it still takes away that autonomy. So I was a bit frustrated to see that their intentions might have been good, but they're really taking away an important part of SGA ... even though they're saying it's a transparent process. But how transparent can you be?"

The second part of the policy concerns the $112,000 surplus that SGA currently holds. This surplus has historically approached as high as $200,000 and was able to be used by SGA at any time for certain large-scale initiatives. Mule Express and the new Prevention Education system, for example, are two initiatives funded by this SGA surplus. Still, though a large amount of the money sat unused, Rubingh and SGA President Stephanie Ng '20 insist that the student government had plans for it.

"This year we are looking at things including, among other proposed projects, replacing all the desks in Moyer and adding more of these swipe readers to the laundry machines in the off campus housing, stuff like that," Rubingh said. "And ... having that reserve let us do that."

"Part of Dean Gulati's argument was that our reserve money or active extra activity fee money should be used for student activities," Ng added. "But we also think as part of student government, our job is to advocate for students and push for students' priorities to actually become a priority of the college. So when we actually presented that we wanted to help fund the Moyer desks .... we got pushback saying that they had a college priority list, and Moyer was up there, but not number one. But we tried to say, 'We have this money now, let's make this a number one project.'"

"Like Dean Gulati pointed out, you might pay and it sits in the reserve, which is true," Rubingh continued. "Your money might not go to you while you're here, but the money from the people before you is the reason you have to go [boxes at Mule Express], and all these other places — it's paying it forward."

Instead, the $112,000 will be reinvested back into student financial hardship initiatives, like the MULE Cabinet and student travel grants, by a committee made up of the SGA treasurer, an at-large student, Gulati, College Chaplain Kristen Glass-Perez and President Harring.

"I do not think that we are dead, and if we're dying, I don't want to go quietly into the night."

"Important to know is that dollars in these student financial hardship funds go directly to students dollar for dollar," said Gulati in her student-wide email.

Some students, like Rajan, want to know what exactly these financial hardship programs entail, and how the College can ensure that those who need the resources are making use of them.

"They say that they're going to put it towards financial hardship initiatives, but I really want to know more about what those initiatives are and what that's going to look like," Rajan said. "They're saying that a lot of people have benefited, and ... as a student myself talking to other students — I just wonder sometimes, what are these plans? I don't know. I'm just kind of concerned [about] what is actually going on."

If the current fee results in so much excess money that is typically put to no use, why not simply lower the Student Activities fee itself?

"We didn't want to cut the fee money until we had a chance to open it up to say to these student groups, 'What do you need?'," said Gulati, "because it's possible we would hear from WMUH – they've definitely come alive over the past couple years – 'Hey, we need a couple thousand more dollars, not less.' And then we have groups like the Muslim Student Association who really haven't had an opportunity to get permanent funding at all. So we didn't want to cut the fee money until we first changed the process and gave everybody a chance to say, 'Here's what we need.' If, after that, we're finding that we have what we need and could cut the fee by even five dollars, that's five dollars back in the student's pocket or their parent's pocket, whatever that might be. And so we will then make adjustments to the fee amount if we need to."

In place of the huge surplus fund, a new rake-back process will combine up to $10,000 of "unspent club funds, project funds" and more to put towards initiatives like Mule Express and Prevention Education, according to the proposal. Ng and Rubingh had not been made aware of this final amount, or whether or not some reserve budget for SGA initiatives existed at all, as of Tuesday night.

Rubingh wonders if this decision may be a symptom of the College's financial situation.

"By their own admission, there's major cuts across all sorts of departments. That's why we've had tuition rises and ... they tried to do everything they can to prevent more tuition rises," Rubingh said. "So we wouldn't be averse to helping in that in either giving away some reserve, giving them more money or even putting a cap on our reserve. But the main problem with this is in taking away their money, they also took away our autonomy and our ability to be independent and have the final say in our own program."

Rubingh admits that the decision left him temporarily deflated and unsure of the organization's future.

"I was very sad when I first heard this. My first thought was, 'SGA is dead,' but I do not think that we are dead, and if we're dying, I don't want to go quietly into the night," said Rubingh. "But basically, we can still do everything we used to do. There's just a whole new level of bureaucracy and red tape stopping us from doing it. So it is harder to do everything we used to do, but it is not impossible."

So, what's next for SGA? Ng remains committed to the organization's mission, saying, "We're going to continue advocating for students."

New environmental movement rises on campus

Sunrise Movement advocates for Green New Deal

By Cydney Wilson
Co-News Editor

Photo Courtesy of Sunrise Movement Muhlenberg

"The outdoors is the place I feel the most like my true self," says Sydney Baron '22, co-coordinator of Sunrise Movement on campus. "The beauty of the Earth keeps me motivated to live every day and I turn to it when nothing else seems to feel right. The trees always help me find home." Baron explains that Sunrise Movement is "growing [an] army of young people looking to solve the climate crisis and tackle systemic inequality at the same time by fighting for a Green New Deal."

Sunrise Movement's official website says, "Together, we will change this country and this world, sure as the sun rises each morning."

Sunrise Movement got started on campus when co-coordinators Baron and Maura O'Reilly '20 along with other 'Berg students, "spearheaded the effort to run Sunrise National's strike circle curriculum here on campus," explains Baron. "The strike circle was a six-week program that culminated in a climate strike near the end of December. The strike we held coincided with a national week of climate action — it was so exciting! From there, those involved decided to take the group to the next level and form an official Sunrise Hub on campus."

"I always describe it as a movement of incredible joy and incredible despair," explains O'Reilly. "It is one of the only communities that I have been a part of [where] both feelings are given space to coexist."

Students on campus seem to be excited about the rise of youth-led activism. Baron says, "As we are a branch of a national movement, we are not affiliated with Muhlenberg as an institution, though our group is completely comprised of and led by Muhlenberg students. Many students I've spoken with seem very excited about the work we are doing and I hope that enthusiasm continues to spread!"

"I always describe it as a movement of incredible joy and incredible despair."

The goals of the movement reach much further than Muhlenberg's campus. O'Reilly says, "Our main goal is to successfully get a Green New Deal, which is a proposed plan for tackling the intertwined crises of the climate crisis and skyrocketing inequality. The Green New Deal is the only plan on the table that stops the climate crisis in an equitable way, and we recognize that all inequalities (like racial injustices, classist injustices, ableism, etc.) are bundled together — so through our work trying to stop the climate crisis, we are simultaneously working to rebuild our society into a society that works for and supports all people."

The urgency of Sunrise Movement is felt by many students on campus. Rardin says, "I continue to have moments of challenging the movement and my actions within it: 'Is this going to help? Is this the right way to do it?' But then I realize that we need to act because we don't have time, and Sunrise is an amazingly well thought-out movement and very worth the time you put in. If we don't act now, the consequences we pay later will be far worse."

Gwen Wilkie '20 is part of the action planning committee and a member of the hub. Wilkie explained her choice to get involved, saying, "I have been feeling the weight of the world on my shoulders lately. There is so much in this world that is going wrong and so many people that are getting hurt and that will continue to get hurt if things move forward without change. I have been wanting to get involved in climate justice and really use my voice, but being only one person has rendered me feeling helpless. Sunrise has given me the opportunity to make a difference. To speak and to be heard. To surround myself with a community that inspires and supports me and shares my passion for the Earth... I can see the things that they are doing making a difference, and now I am part of that too. It is really an amazing community that encourages you to come as you are and give what you can."

IJCU encourages religious diversity on campus and beyond

First Friday Program returns and more IJCU changes to come

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Co-News Editor

The Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding (IJCU) at Muhlenberg College is in the midst of a transformative process, one that Dr. William Gruen, Associate Professor of Religion Studies and incoming director of the IJCU, hopes will raise awareness of the importance of literacy and of understanding religious diversity. This refocusing of the Institute's mission serves to expand the community's comprehension of religion in the world beyond that of Judaism and Christianity.

"Traditionally, as the IJCU name indicates, it was about Jews and Christians understanding one another," said Gruen, "because those were the two core constituencies of the student body 30 years ago when the institute was founded on campus. Since then, however, the world has changed a lot, and the student body has changed a lot. Now, 30% of the student body doesn't claim any religious affiliation at all."

"It doesn't matter what your religious identity is or if you don't have one. It is still important to understand religion in the world. And so, we are refocusing the institute to help people think about how to understand this thing we call religion in the world and how it motivates people to action, sometimes for good and sometimes for ill. Thinking about religion as a motivating factor is important to all disciplines," Gruen emphasized.

So, how will these changes be reflected in the transitioning IJCU? To start, the First Friday Program is to return this semester. Gruen explained, "The First Friday Program is a long-standing monthly program that engages both the college community and the local community in topics of mutual interest." The opening installment of the series will be held this Friday, Feb. 07, at 12:30 pm in Seegers 111-112. Dr. Gruen will present the first talk, "Ways of Understanding Religion," as an introduction for the rest of the series.

"...We are refocusing the institute to help people think about how to understand this thing we call religion in the world and how it motivates people to action, sometimes for good and sometimes for ill."

"For religious people within their own faith community, thinking about religious diversity is one thing," explained Gruen. "For us as academics or people who just want to understand the human experience of religion, well, that's a different conversation. And, so, I want to help both students and the rest of the community realize that it is helpful to think about what conversation we are having and what are the goals of that conversation."

Later on in the semester, the program will continue this theme of religious diversity by hosting representatives from the Moravian, Tibetan Buddhist, and Orthodox Jewish communities.

"There will be interrogation of thinking about how the world view or the religious system that they live in motivates them and makes sense of the world for them," said Gruen. "I'm hoping we can model what a productive conversation with a religious identity that you might not identify with looks like."

Dr. Gruen is also excited to announce a new segment of the First Friday Program called Talk Back Tuesday. These discussion-based events will occur in GQ Annex the following Tuesday after the Friday program event, allowing for a smaller group to discuss what they took away from the presentation in a more intimate setting.

Looking forward, the IJCU is working out a number of different possibilities for growing their work. The institute hopes to start road trips to visit various religious sites in the area that students might not have the opportunity to go to otherwise. Student participation is also another major factor being taken into serious consideration. An advisory board is to come sometime in the near future in which there will be both student and alumni representation.

In addition, there will also be a new course offered for the Fall 2020 semester. The course will be taught by Dr. Gruen himself, and he hopes to use the course, as he says, "as a gateway to get people involved in the work of the institute, so that in the future there will potentially be internships, independent studies or even research projects of various types." The goal is to spark an interest in students early on so that the work and mission of the IJCU carries on well into the future.

"Some books leave us free, and some books make us free."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Trexler Library's not-so-hidden gems:
Special Collections Archives and exhibit showcase marginalized history

By Ellen Powers
Senior Staff Writer

Karly McCloskey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

"An Innovation Revisited: 170 Years of Women on Campus" is one of the exhibits put on by the special collections in Trexler Library.

One of Muhlenberg's not-so-hidden gems is the College's Special Collections and Archives, located in the Trexler Library. Students and faculty may be familiar with the main aspects of Special Collections: it houses all the College's archives, as well as the Rare Book Collection. The College Archives include photos, memorabilia, graduation programs and even World War II correspondence from Muhlenberg servicemen. The other part of Special Collections and Archives is the Rare Book Collection, which houses a wide variety of works, from ancient cuneiform tablets and papyrus to Pennsylvania Dutch and German materials, as well as first or early editions of works by authors like Ernest Hemingway and Charles Dickens.

Susan Falciani Maldonado, Special Collections & Archive Librarian, explained, "The collection is broad, which makes for an excellent teaching collection because it covers so many areas."

In addition to the archives, Special Collections and its staff are hard at work with several exciting projects. One such project happening through Special Collections is the exhibit *An Innovation Revisited: 170 Years of Women on Campus*, which goes along with the events that the History Department has been organizing for the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage. The exhibit opened last Thursday, and it will be up until Apr. 25. Planning for the exhibit began in the late summer, when Maldonado began looking through the College Archives for materials related to women's suffrage at Muhlenberg. The catch — Muhlenberg was an all-male college at the time. As a result, the focus of the exhibit shifted: it would instead focus on the last 170 years of women at Muhlenberg by showcasing obscure pieces of women's history that Maldonado has learned through the archives. This exhibit is earning Special Collections well-deserved attention, even getting coverage on the local news, Channel 69 WFMZ.

Arguably the most well-known fact about women's history on campus is that co-education was achieved in 1957, but that was not the first time that women were a part of Muhlenberg's history. The exhibit highlights the first female teachers and students, who were part of the Allentown Seminary (the predecessor to Muhlenberg) as early as the 1850s. Female faculty members also receive several moments of emphasis in the exhibit, from the first faculty members (who were librarians) to a professor who immigrated from Germany during the 1930s because she disagreed with the way her country was going to current president Harring, who is serving as the first female president of Muhlenberg. The exhibit also allows for people to "see the struggle of fifty years" (as Maldonado describes) through a whole section on the debate over co-education at Muhlenberg, including documents from people on both sides. Other women from Muhlenberg's history highlighted in the exhibit are the first woman to receive a diploma from Muhlenberg (through the Allentown Seminary) in 1920 and an unknown African-American woman who appears in a photograph as part of the class of 1927 at the summer school. The stories of these women are just some of those who appear as part of the fascinating exhibit.

Another major project being worked on through Special Collections is spearheaded by Kristen Leipert, who is the Digital Projects Archivist for Special Collections. She has been working with the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center in Allentown on the Lehigh Valley LGBTQ Archive. Putting together this archive, which is currently on display at the Bradbury-Sullivan Center but will come to Muhlenberg over spring break, was a collaborative effort with archivists at Lehigh University as well as at Bradbury-Sullivan. This panel exhibit uses Pride Guides, which cover the history of Pride in the Lehigh Valley. The information in the LGBTQ Archive was digitized by Robert Stinner '20 over the summer, and now alumna Morgan Wolper '19 is uploading the material for the archive. For the first time ever, the Lehigh Valley LGBTQ Archive had a table at Pride, so they were able to reach out to the community for materials for the archive. Leipert explained that this opportunity "starts people thinking about the things they have and their legacy." Leipert and Maldonado said that the Lehigh Valley LGBTQ Archive served as a prime example of what they called "Archives as Activism," in which materials are collected and shared and thus become a form of activism by "making local history for a community that was underserved."

Special Collections and Archives also connects to the student body through several different courses at Muhlenberg, three of which are being offered this semester. The first of these is the Public Health course AIDS/HIV – Lehigh Valley, in which students gather information on the HIV/AIDS outbreak in a local context. Students learn archiving best practices by getting to look at the history through the Archives of FACT: Fighting AIDS Continuously Together, an organization that has supported people with AIDS without judgment since its founding in 1986.

The other courses working with Special Collections are the Integrated Learning courses Books and Their Readers and Printmaking and the Book. Students get to learn about who was reading and how they were reading all throughout history. Through the Printmaking course, they get paired with a rare book from the Rare Book Collection and create artist's books, an art form that incorporates text, as well as displaying the art and rare book during the final week of the semester. Maldonado and Leipert help in several sessions of each of these courses. All three of these courses allow students to learn more about Special Collections at Muhlenberg, archiving as a profession and how to work with items in an archive.

Special Collections and Archives provides the Muhlenberg community with a wide range of opportunities and information, in particular with *An Innovation Revisited: 170 Years of Women on Campus* exhibit, which students, faculty and staff can check out in the Rare Books Room on Level B at Trexler Library during library business hours.

The Year of the Rat enters with a mighty roar: ASA's Lunar New Year celebration

By Danny Milkis
Assistant A&C Editor

During the last week of January, the Asian Student Association hosted their annual campus-wide celebration of the Lunar New Year. From Monday, Jan. 27 until Thursday, Jan. 30, the entire campus was aglow with a plethora of fascinating cultural activities, and Muhlenberg students had a taste of all that the Year of the Rat would bring.

'Berg community members enjoyed the kickoff of the Lunar New Year celebration by relishing in some delectable dumplings in the lower level kitchen, and the halls of Seegers quickly transformed before everyone's eyes into a breathtaking Chinese cultural hub. Lanterns were hung all over the ceiling of the Fireside Lounge, massive red-and-gold balloons gracefully adorned the overhang beside the entrance to the Wood Dining Commons and streamers of various colors could be found throughout the building as the week progressed.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, the ASA hosted a cultural panel in the Great Room, which was followed by Wednesday's Tea Around the Globe event in the Event Space, both of which saw considerable turnouts and further informed the student body about the various different components that comprise the Lunar New Year Festival in Asia, as opposed to the New Year's Eve traditions in America.

Lily Arovas '23, an attendee of the cultural panel, said, "Well, there is definitely a good amount of information I didn't know about Chinese culture, and I guess the biggest shock was how much ancestry works its way into their society. If we had that here, it's crazy to think how much more respectful we would be of our elders."

On Thursday, the ASA brought in a surprise: a huge Chinese lion, piloted by two brave volunteer members. The moment the gargantuan creature stormed through the doors of the dining hall, the attention of hundreds of students was directed towards it. Dozens of students on the second floors crowded around the railing to get a good look at the unexpected visitor, and awestruck gasps filled the vast corners of the tall-ceilinged room. While the lion stole the show, members of the ASA took the opportunity to present onlookers with traditional red envelopes, a crucial and intriguing facet of the celebration, profoundly different than American gift exchanges on the Gregorian New Year.

To learn more about the red envelopes and a variety of other Lunar New Year cultural symbols, The Weekly reached out to Robin Chodak '22, an ASA member and major contributor to the setup of the week's festivities. Chodak explained that the exchanging of these red envelopes is a popular tradition in Tibet, and it is customary to present one using both hands out of respect for the recipient.

"It's customary to give lots of gifts," Chodak explained. "It's about celebrating the future, sure, but the main purpose is definitely about sharing and showing appreciation for the people in your life."

As for the lion, Chodak explained that in China, a similarly human-piloted lion is commonly seen parading through the streets of cities and towns, known for chewing up cabbage in order to usher in the coming year. After the lion's festivities were finished, participants could exit the front entrance of Seegers and find a plethora of sparklers, symbolically traditional to the celebration.

"Sparklers are huge at night," continued Chodak. "They're used to scare off evil spirits, but they're also just festive."

When the conversation turned toward the final event of the evening, the widely popular "Rat Stuff-a-Plush," Chodak chuckled, describing how the practice isn't one that's native to Chinese culture in any way, but is rather a fun, adorable way to get even more people interested in the activities. He followed that by pointing out that the lunar calendar names every lunar year as an animal within a cycle that has been long passed down through Chinese history. As can be inferred, the stuff-a-plush event is inspired by the fact that the coming year is the "Year of the Rat."

When asked what the importance of the popularity of the Lunar New Year celebration truly was to the ASA, Chodak responded, "I guess there are two main things: it's an opportunity to make students of Asian origin feel like they're welcome on campus, and it's a fantastic opportunity for these students to share their culture with their community."

He then explained that the main theme of the holiday was to wish peace and prosperity to family, neighbors and people who have made an impact on one's life, and at Muhlenberg, it is an outlet to share a tradition that many people are likely not totally aware of.

"In the future," Chodak concluded, "we know that people here love our dining hall's food, and we're looking to expand the horizons of these celebrations to cover food from even more Asian countries than just China. This year we mainly focused on China in general, but we hope to use the popularity we got to get even more diversity recognized on campus."

Nancy Agosto / The Muhlenberg Weekly
The head of the lion features red and gold, the traditional Lunar New Year colors.

Correction:

In last issue's article "Put a spring in your step with Master Choreographers," the piece "Agape's Touch Beyond Earthly Attachment" was mistakenly referred to as "Agape's Touch Beyond Earthly Love." Additionally, in the article "Radio Riff-Off Showcase extravaganza," photographer Ayden Levine's name was misspelled.
We apologize for this error.

Artist of the week: CarolAnn Miller '20

Photo Courtesy of CarolAnn Miller
CarolAnn Miller '20 shares her passion for singing.

By Corinne Battistelli
Staff Writer

"This has been in the works since freshman year, but it really has been compiled in the last year," said CarolAnn Miller '20.

Approaching the culmination of her time at Muhlenberg, Miller reflected on how she got to this moment; rigorously preparing for her senior recital on Feb. 22. This concert will feature Miller singing nineteen songs with accompaniment, all memorized. The show will also feature an intermission and reception.

For music majors with a vocal concentration, like Miller, the concert is equivalent to a CUE (Culminating Undergraduate Experience). While other music majors can opt to do a concert, those with a vocal concentration must have a performance. On top of that, it must contain songs spanning at least four languages. Besides English, Miller is performing in Italian, German, French and Irish Gaelic. This may seem to be a daunting task, but it is required for students like her who take six semesters of vocal lessons. These lessons focus on diction and the skills needed to sing in other languages.

When asked how long she has been singing, Miller replied that she has been singing since she "was a wee lass." Her whole family sings, so she has always been surrounded by music. By twelfth grade, Miller knew she wanted to be a music major or attend a culinary institute with a focus on baking.

"[Vocal lessons] assured me that I wanted to be a music major with a vocal concentration," said Miller. This realization came after her first semester at Muhlenberg, leading to her confidently declaring her major at the start of her second semester. She has been involved in the Women's Ensemble, College Choir, Chamber Choir and Rejoice Gospel Choir. She is also the music director for the Chapel and a member of the leadership team, working hard planning Pancake Palooza. This event is sponsored by the Chapel, and it features many of the performance groups on campus in fifteen minute sets as pancakes are being continually served. It is a load of fun. On top of that, she is a member of a church choir here in Allentown.

Besides singing, Miller has taken up studying composition, taking courses both here at 'Berg and abroad in Ireland. The only time she took a break from composition courses was during the spring semester of her junior year, when she focused on GARs (General Academic Requirements).

Miller wrote a song for her friend Kayleigh Scott '20 last semester, to which Scott choreographed a dance. Scott asked Miller if she could write another tune for Scott's own senior showcase.

Despite the fond memories and important relationships Miller has built here at Muhlenberg, she is starting to get antsy to start the next chapter of her life. She is looking forward to her return to Ireland, as she has applied to the University of Limerick to pursue a masters degree in music therapy.

Duck Donuts: Thank you for the

Katherine Dickey
General Editorial Assistant

Katherine Dickey / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Duck Donuts' doughnuts are as tasty as they look.

The first thing that anyone needs to understand to properly appreciate a doughnut is the difference between yeast and cake doughnuts. A yeast doughnut is light and airy, like a french cruller or most things you might get at Dunkin Donuts or Krispy Kreme. A cake doughnut is fluffier and comparatively dense, made using cake batter, as with an apple cider or an old fashioned doughnut. Cake doughnuts are best when hot, yeast doughnuts can be eaten whenever. Personally, I am of the school of thought that a crappy yeast doughnut is always better than a crappy cake doughnut, but a good cake doughnut can be absolutely transcendent. Duck Donuts' cake doughnuts surpass all that I've had to date.

Duck Donuts is a craft doughnut chain originating in Duck, North Carolina, with over 200 locations nationally. The location at Tilghman Square in Allentown has walls of windows facing the south and west, so in the afternoons, the whole shop is lit up in the golden tones of the setting sun. The interior is decorated in bright pink and blue, with bold yellow chairs and stools. Warm wafts of sweet air drift into the shop from the kitchen and fill the space. Each doughnut is made fresh to order, so they come out piping hot and freshly dipped in the toppings of your choice.

The vanilla cake donut base that makes up most of each donut is truly divine, sweet and crusty and fluffy and buttery in all the right ways. The maple bacon donut, their best seller, balances this sweetness miraculously with the nutty sugar of the maple icing and the salty, fatty goodness of a generous sprinkling of bacon bits. The strong flavors push and pull to create something wonderful. Similarly, the blueberry icing packs a fruity punch that complements the vanilla base simply and perfectly. The peanut butter paradise donut, a peanut butter and chocolate iced delight that utilizes the classic combination sublimely with one of my friends commenting that it tasted just like a peanut butter Girl Scout cookie. (I will assume she meant Tagalongs, also known as Peanut Butter Patties.) The strongest flavors of toppings were my favorites, because they worked to cut the straight sweetness of the vanilla cake base.

Conversely, the base overwhelmed some of the weaker flavors, and those doughnuts ended up seemingly mostly gimmicky. The coconut doughnut, for example, only had the slightest hint of coconutty flavor, despite a heavy coating. I had a similar issue with a cookies-and-cream-type doughnut with Oreo crumbles and a cinnamon sugar coated beauty. The topping just didn't contribute enough flavor to really seem worth ordering it at all. Similarly, some of the minor deviations between flavors didn't make any difference, with the s'mores doughnut tasting exactly like the chocolate frosted — the graham cracker topping and marshmallow drizzle were entirely overpowered by the (delicious) chocolate frosting.

The cost was reasonable, and Duck Donuts is just a quick LANTA bus ride away from Muhlenberg's campus. Duck Donuts also delivers on Grubhub. I would absolutely recommend eating here, but get the doughnuts when you know you can eat them right away; otherwise, the smell may drive you insane. I would also stick to either simplistic flavors or something really out there, like my personal favorite of maple bacon, but this is definitely an eat worth your time.

Duck Donuts is located in Tilghman Square Shopping Center at 4608 Broadway, Allentown, Pa. 18104, and they are open from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays to Saturdays, and 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays, at $15.25 for one dozen donuts.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY/OPINIONS&EDITORIALS

Editorial

Caucuses cause chaos

The Iowa Democratic caucuses have been on Americans' minds for months now, but on Monday, instead of a definitive result for who the state backs as the Democratic nominee for president, there was mass confusion as the results went unreleased.

In a new process, the Democratic Party sought to use an app-based reporting system to tally the outcomes of the Iowa caucuses. Developed only a few months prior to the caucuses themselves and with very little testing, which explains the major snafu: the app was correctly recording the results but was then not correctly reporting the results.

In addition to this, the app was not included in the local precinct chair training, and many news organizations reported that they weren't even able to download it. The phone lines, which have traditionally been used to report the outcomes of individual precincts, were used in addition to the app and were overrun with calls and mass confusion as well. This forced all the results to be cross checked with paper ballots.

The confusion with the app — which forced Nevada to state they would no longer be using it ahead of their own caucuses — coupled with the recent memory of the hacking of the 2016 election raises concerns regarding technology and elections.

While advances in technology have certainly made lives easier and the concept of voting via app opens up all sorts of possible ways to make voting more accessible, through the multiple language options or by not forcing people to physically go out to the polls, which is a boon for many with disabilities, or who are unable to get off work, etc. There also comes a valid concern when faulty technology is combined with American democracy.

Though this app might make participating in civic duty more accessible, voting via app could be used as another technique for voter suppression. The fact that many weren't even able to download the app for the Iowa caucus raises the concern that should our electoral system move more towards technology-based ballot casting could alienate Americans who do not have access to smartphones or even the internet.

As the days count down to the 2020 presidential election, we should all take the time not just to ensure that we're registered to vote, but also that our votes will be counted. Look into applying for absentee ballots, or finding out if the ballot you'll be using is paper or electronic. While paper is indeed less eco-friendly, it can help ensure that the results will be accurate — and that your voice will be loudly and definitively heard.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

un sorbet calamansi, s'il vous plait (désolé, mon français est mauvais)

By Brooke Weber
Éditeur-en-Chef

mon français est mauvais.
mon français est mauvais, et nous sommes en France,
j'essaie de rappeler tout ce que je savais (ah ! c'est corrigé) quand j'ai eu seize ans.
ce n'est pas...
ce n'est pas...
comment dit-on « much » ?

voyez ?
je te l'ai dit.

nous promenons promenons promenons
arrêtez !
la glace ! pour nous, après l'Irlande, il fait chaud. (c'est corrigé ou non?)
mon amie et moi regardons regardons regardons
moi : « bonjour, monsieur ! »
il (lui ?) : « bonjour ! _____ ? »
nous regardons regardons
(les yeux d'elle : « est-ce que tu sais ce qu'il dit ? »)
(mes yeux : ...)
(...)
je lui souris. (c'est corrigé ou non ?)
je vois une glace jaune-orange – j'ai montré (du doigt? je ne sais pas, sais plus).
moi : « qu'est-ce que c'est ? » (ce sont les mots magiques quand ton français est mauvais)
lui : « c'est calamansi ! comme une citron et une _____. c'est délicieuse ! »
citron ! citron ! je comprends !
moi, à mon amie : « it's like a lemon. »
elle achète un sorbet calamansi. j'achète une glace du chocolat. je remercie l'homme. il sourit a moi. je goûte la sorbet. c'est brillante et belle.
mon français est mauvais. mais aujourd'hui, ça suffit.

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

Brooke Weber / The Muhlenberg Weekly

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Is destiny ineffable?

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

It's my first Graphic Opinions of 2020 and, if the Internet is to be believed, the popularity of *Good Omens: The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter* is still going strong. Granted, it's been going strong for 30 years (as of this May) since the book was first published. Last May, though, *Good Omens* was released as a mini-series on Amazon Prime with millions more latching on to Aziraphale and Crowley as they have absolutely no effect on stopping the apocalypse.

The devilish angel and saintly demon are the creations of Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, the latter of whom is an author whose books I've been working my way through for the past couple years. Over break I decided to take a dive into Gaiman's comic writing with his award winning run on *The Sandman*. Like his other writings, it's dark and grim and handles harsh realities balanced with outlandish fantasy. What's truly amusing, though, is his handling of Hell and Heaven in comparison to his work with Pratchett and on the mini-series.

Over break I decided to take a dive into Gaiman's comic writing with his award winning run on *The Sandman*.

In one of the story arcs of *Sandman*, Lucifer decides to quit being the prince of Hell and kicks out the denizens, locking up the gates behind himself and handing the key over to Gaiman's main character Dream. The demons (and many other gods, goddesses, representatives of Order and Chaos and more) seek Hell as their own domain. They're wily and truly evil and barely contained by those who declare themselves the superiors. In *Good Omens,* the demons and angels are both made out to be lackeys in a corporate structure, and while the demons do carry out evil deeds, they come off as significantly less menacing than when Gaiman writes them alone.

Though the demons differ, it's in this same storyline that we meet angels who bear a much more striking resemblance to those of Gaiman's earlier work. While the angels in *Sandman* proclaim that "the war between Heaven and Hell is over," rather than postponed as in *Good Omens,* their reactions prior to this declaration, when they convey a message and find themselves in the possession of the key to Hell, has marked similarities to *Good Omens.* Without ever saying as much, the angels reference The Ineffable Plan much like Aziraphale and Crowley. They realize that it is out of their control and eventually come to accept that this was the intention all along. Throughout the remainder of the arc, *Good Omens* almost echoes across the page.

Though they are two very different worlds — the events of *Sandman* easily slot into main DC continuity, while one can only imagine what havoc Adam and the Them might wreak in a world with superheroes (or simply how Crowley and Aziraphale might interact with the Justice League) — Gaiman overlapped in work on *Sandman* and *Good Omens.* But beyond his dark fantasy trademarks and sarcastic side characters, it is really only echoes of the latter that can be found in the former, proving Gaiman is little more than someone deeply knowledgeable about mythologies...unless The Book of Destiny and The Ineffable Plan are really one in the same?

What happens when we lose a hero?

Kobe Bryant's tragic death reminds us to keep our personal heroes - and the ones we love - close

Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

By Grace Oddo
Contributing Writer

When I opened Twitter this past Sunday, the hashtag #24 flooded my feed. Upon seeing these tweets, I was confused. What did I miss while I was off my phone?

I refreshed my feed. #24, gold and purple hearts, #RIP, thoughts and prayers. Then I saw the headline.

Kobe Bryant was dead.

I didn't believe it at first. People like him are seemingly immortal.

My despair only increased as I continued to read the details of the story. The helicopter went down in the rocky hills of Calabasas, California. Eight other people were confirmed dead besides Bryant, including his beloved daughter, Gianna.

She was thirteen.

So many people paid their respects to Bryant on social media in the days following the tragedy. His fans didn't know him personally, yet they felt connected to him in some form or another. He was an inspiration for young athletes who one day hoped to play the game as effortlessly as he did. He was a man of charity who met with over 200 sick children in collaboration with The Make-A-Wish Foundation. Most importantly, he was a husband and father of four daughters. He is quoted with lovingly saying how much he loves being a "girl dad."

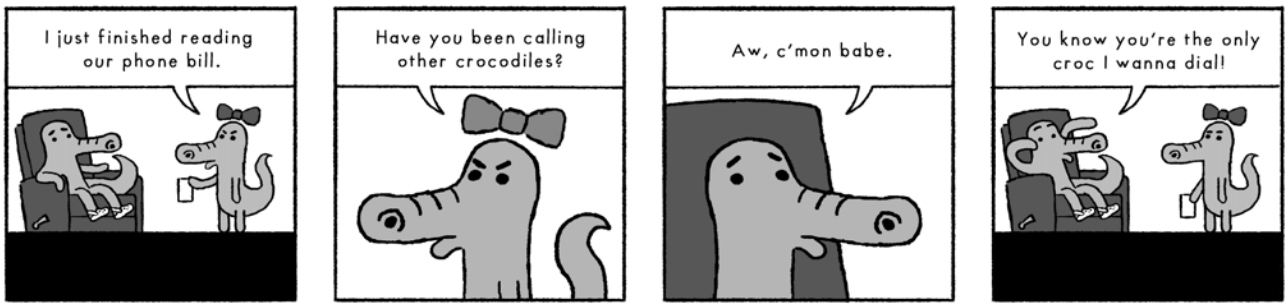
However, Bryant certainly wasn't perfect. He, like everyone, had a complicated past. In the aftermath of this tragedy, I am encouraged to reflect. How, I wonder, do we judge a person, especially someone as famous as Kobe Bryant? Can we admire all of the good things he did, both on and off the court, while acknowledging his past missteps?

During this time of grief and reflection, perhaps there are lessons to be learned. First and foremost, acknowledge how fragile life is. Don't allow reluctance to leave things left unsaid. If you love someone, tell them. You never know what tomorrow might bring.

Secondly, perhaps we could all broaden our definition of what a hero is. There is no written rule that your role model has to be a sports star, entertainer or other celebrity. Heroes and role models walk among us. They take the form of our first responders, charity workers, teachers, friends, family ... even people walking the halls of Muhlenberg.

This is a time of painstaking grief, but also a time of gratitude. As we remember Kobe Bryant and the differences he made, let's also acknowledge those who make a difference in our daily lives. Let's thank them, and let's hold them close.

CROCS
By Nicolas Calá


I just finished reading our phone bill.
Have you been calling other crocodiles?
Aw, c'mon babe.
You know you're the only croc I wanna dial!

From South Africa to Pennsylvania:
Benedict Kohler '23 finds success on and off the tennis court

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

During their fall season, the Muhlenberg men's tennis team went 4-0, including a remarkable win over Division I opponent, Lafayette. One of the biggest bright spots for the team has been the stellar play of Benedict Kohler '23, who has primarily started at number one for both singles and doubles. Kohler, a native of Durban, South Africa, decided to attend Muhlenberg because of its unique liberal arts education and the ability to form close connections with his professors and peers.

"One of my main attractions was it being a smaller liberal arts school," said Kohler, "I liked the idea of being able to form relationships with my professors and getting to know and work closely with the people in my class and major [Math and Computer Science]. This is in contrast to all of the universities in South Africa, where the student population is generally over 30,000."

Kohler also seeks to take advantage of Muhlenberg's many unique opportunities, saying, "I like being able to explore my other academic interests and broaden my overall knowledge as well as obviously gain a deep understanding within my major. This opportunity is also not offered in South Africa, where you have to choose your major prior to entering the institution and there is little opportunity to take classes outside of it. Lastly, I really wanted to broaden my horizons by studying abroad, getting a feel for what life is like in another country and also becoming more knowledgeable and employable than students back in my home country."

"One of my main attractions was it being a smaller liberal arts school."

Growing up in South Africa, Kohler gained valuable experience in maintaining stability in his life, particularly during his high school years, where he learned to balance a busy schedule between athletics and academics. Kohler trained at his high school's tennis academy both in the morning and in the afternoon. Between those hours, Kohler would focus on his academic work and has found that the rigorous daily schedule has helped him transition successfully as a college student. Looking back at high school, Kohler realizes that "this is where I really learnt to manage my time effectively and become self-sufficient with my learning. We weren't given much tutoring, so this was very important. While playing tournaments I would still need to keep on top of my work, which forced me to be self-motivated and hardworking. These qualities have definitely helped me with my studies at Muhlenberg and in most things I do as well," he explained.

"Having played at a higher level than most of the players in Division III, I believe that I have this confidence in myself to beat most of these players, which will lead to the other players on the team gaining more confidence and winning their games as well."

The competition Kohler faced at a national level in South Africa has prepared him greatly for playing collegiately. While the competition level intensity has increased, Kohler feels comfortable playing at a higher level. "The competition has definitely been more intense than playing against other high schools or at the high school level. The other teams are more focused and definitely have a stronger desire to win. On the national level, South Africa has actually had many players attend Division I schools in the U.S."

As the season began for the Mules, Kohler's immediate success on the court earned him the opportunity to play at the ITA Southeast Regional in Fredericksburg, VA in October alongside teammate Noah Sellinger '20. Kohler won two of the three singles matches he played in at the ITA. Playing against elite competition at the tournament provided a major confidence boost for Kohler. Going into the final match of the fall season against Laffayette, and he found that his self-confidence has positively influenced his teammates. "Having played at a higher level than most of the players in Division III," says Kohler, "I believe that I have this confidence in myself to beat most of these players, which will lead to the other players on the team gaining more confidence and winning their games as well. I think this was evident in our match against Lafayette, a D1 team that we've failed to beat in 60 years, but that we beat in the fall semester purely because we all seemed to go in with a positive mindset that we were capable of beating them that match."

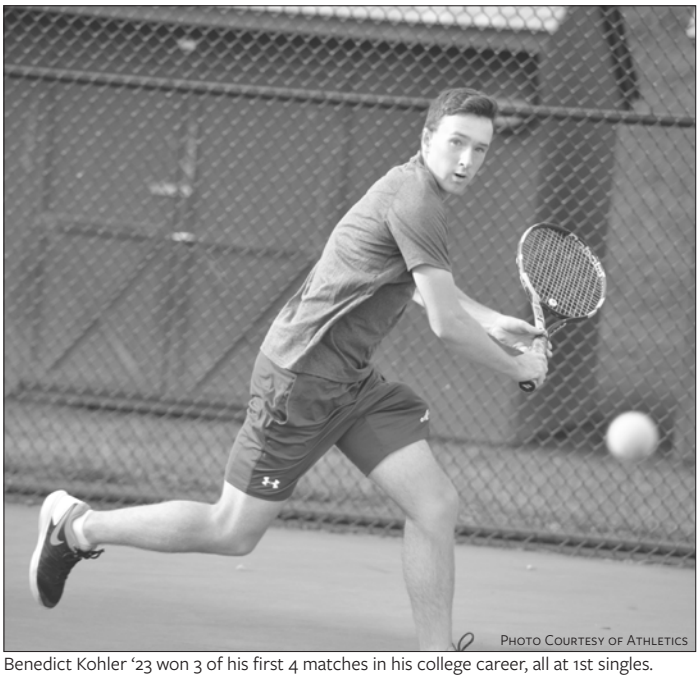


Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Benedict Kohler '23 won 3 of his first 4 matches in his college career, all at 1st singles.

Tremendous success in the fall comes with high expectations for the spring, as Kohler hopes to dominate his opponents at the number one spot and help lead the Mules to a berth in the Centennial Conference Playoffs. "I would personally like to win 80% of my games playing at number 1. I think this should give the rest of the team a boost and encourage them to win their games as well. I think as a team, we have the ability to make it to the playoffs, and this is definitely another goal we'll be hoping to achieve."

Outside of tennis, Kohler finds that his favorite part of his Muhlenberg experience is building new friendships forming close relationships with his professors, who have enhanced his academic experience. "It's been great to meet other students with similar interests and goals to me in life [who] have helped push me to do my best and have on occasion helped me reach beyond what I thought was possible for me. Some of my professors have provided me with extra opportunities to further my knowledge in the courses, which have been very rewarding and enjoyable as well," Kohler stated.

Kohler and the Mules begin their spring season with a home match against conference foe Swarthmore at the Dietrich Field House on Feb. 22, before heading to Lake Nona, Fla. to play three matches over Spring Break.

from **Softball** page 12

brings a high level of experience to the budding Muhlenberg roster. Cicchetti acknowledged the team's expectations of their new coach and the team's response. "She has high expectations, which makes my teammates and I want to work hard and be as successful as we know we are capable of," says Cicchetti. "Softball is a hard sport to understand from the outside looking in because it seems like it is a statistics-based individual sport, but great softball players care more about the team than the individual stats. Coach reinforces the ideas of team and community," Ciccheti explained.

Muhlenberg's offense was strong in 2019, posting a batting average of .295, which ranked them 3rd in the conference for the season and helped them to their season total of 173 runs. A strong 2019 Muhlenberg defense was highlighted by Cicchetti's Golden Glove, and pitcher Cora Bridgers '22's 129 strikeouts, which ranked her 2nd all-time in school history for single-season strikeouts. With the team's electric offense meeting their stout defense, Muhlenberg looks prepared to make a run in the Centennial Conference tournament for the first time since 2015.

Pitcher Nicole Bergamo '20 summed up the group's expectations for the season, saying, "We have a lot of talent on the team again this season, and with the improvements we will make individually and as a team, we should be very competitive in the conference. As seniors, we are hoping to make it to the Centennial Conference tournament at the end of the season."

Of course, on the field, goals and aspirations are always important, but Leavenworth emphasizes coaching her team as more than just athletes. "My goal and the goal of the softball staff is always to coach the whole person," says Leavenworth. "We have been working with each player to make sure they understand that they are much more than just softball players and that our job is to prepare them for the future. It is our hope that through our practices, chalk talks and time spent together off the field that each of the players that go through our program will discover a more mature, confident and well-rounded version of themselves."

With eyes ahead, the Mules look to kick off their 2020 campaign with a strong showing at the Fastpitch Dreams Spring Classic in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. on Sunday, Mar. 1 against Eastern Mennonite University.

Wrestling gaining confidence by the pin

The Mules set their sights on a first-place finish at the CC Championships

By Noah Brill
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg wrestling team has fought their way to an impressive 16-4 start to the season, not to mention the fact that they have yet to lose a game in conference play.

While two losses on Feb. 1 to Roger Williams and SUNY Brockport in Worcester, Mass. might have put a slight damper on the Mules' momentum, they have been all business this season, consistently dominating their opponents on the mats. Before Saturday, the wrestlers were sporting a ten game winning streak. The team's success can, in no small part, be attributed to the continued growth of many of the team's younger players. One such example is Luca Colestock '22, who won both of his matches on Saturday, catapulting him to a staggering 18-0 record this season. Others who have impressed this year include Gregory Baum '22 and Angelo Mahaffey '22, who are sporting respective individual records of 7-3 and 7-1. For many, the team's prosperous fortunes boil down to "hard work and putting in the necessary time and effort on and off the wrestling mat, and that's something I could say the same about a number of my teammates," as Colestock put it. The group's collective commitment to their sport has seemingly put them in a league of their own and enabled them to pin their opponents with ease all season long.

It is not by coincidence that the underclassmen have taken such a great leap forward. From the time they arrived on campus, they have been at a strong advantage in that they have been guided by the team's veterans, who have led by example both in and out of the fieldhouse. Veterans such as Austin Sherman '20 and Dylan Schwartz '20, who had a season long winning streak of his own in Worcester, both have long demonstrated their strong work ethics and fine leadership skills.

In spite of all of their achievements, the Mules still have what is likely their biggest challenge yet ahead of them. The group is less than two weeks away from hosting the Centennial Conference Championships, where they will surely be looking to secure a first place finish. This should provide extra incentive for the wrestlers to zone in and push themselves to the brink, an astonishingly difficult task when balancing academics and athletics. "We just need to keep working hard and stay accountable for ourselves and one another when it comes to getting those extra workouts in. At the end of the day, it's just another tournament, and I think we'll all do our jobs if we just go out and wrestle hard," Colestock added.

Another pivotal factor in the group's collective and individual success has been the man at the helm. Coach Jason McLean '01 and his staff have worked hard to ensure his team's preparedness from both a mental and physical standpoint. "[We are] just staying the course and believing in the work that was put in over the offseason as well as where we left off last season," said McLean. He also insinuated that a large part of his responsibility entails making sure the team stays motivated and knows where their priorities lie. He is keenly aware that if the wrestlers want to prepare in the most adequate way they can for the 15th, it means they have to be the best. "Overall, [we are] doing whatever it takes to be successful and believing we belong and deserve success and to be on top. Doing things the right way off the mat is every bit as important," he continued.

The coaches have also been working with players on an individual basis and emphasizing that the individual nature of wrestling means that, as a team, they can only be as strong as their weakest link.

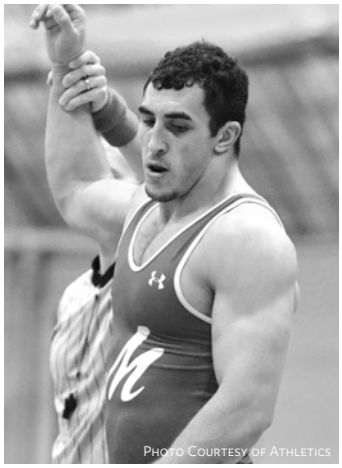


Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Luca Colestock '22 is confident his team will treat the playoffs like just another tournament.

"The message that Coach keeps replying to us is that we just have to believe in ourselves and good things will happen.," said Dylan Schwartz.

Good things will surely happen if the entire group can stay on course as they work their way to the CC Championships on Feb.15 at 10 a.m.

'Berg baseball ready to come out swinging

With only a few weeks until Opening Day, the Mules are confident in their ability to make a run at a CC Championship

By Jordan Fisch
Staff Writer

With their season set to start Feb. 22 at the Gallaudet Bison Classic in the nation's capital, the Muhlenberg baseball team looks to build off of their success from last season, which included an appearance in the CC playoffs, and hopefully perform even better than they did last year.

With the amount of success that the team saw in 2019, you would think that the team would feel pressure to repeat themselves. However, John Serruto '20, who received an All-Eastern College Athletic Conference honorable mention last season, feels absolutely none. "The way we approach every season is the same. We feel that making the Centennial Conference playoffs is an expectation no matter if we made it the year prior or not," Serruto said.

"We feel that we have all the right pieces in place to repeat and go farther than we did the year prior," Serruto added.

Teammate and pitcher Matthew D'Ambrosia '20 is in complete agreement. "I don't believe that there is any more pressure on us this season after making the playoffs the past two seasons," D'Ambrosia said. "We fully believe that we are a top team in our conference and we always expect to be competing for a conference championship, so while there may be higher expectations for our team from everyone else, as a team we have always held ourselves to the level of a playoff and championship team," D'Ambrosia further explained.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics
Second baseman, John Serruto '20, fields a ground ball during the 2019 season.

The team is heading into the season with a great attitude, which is always important for baseball. Last season, they went 20-17 throughout the regular season and 10-8 in conference play. They made the playoffs for the second straight year and the sixth time overall in program history. The 20-win season a year ago was the fifth in program history, and the first since 2013. They also set team records for doubles (85) and extra-base hits (110) in a season.

But, like every year, the team has to deal with the loss of several players to graduation. However, they have managed to improve both over the offseason and during their current preseason. "This year, we have a lot of new faces in new positions, and I feel over the course of this preseason we have done an incredible job getting comfortable with ourselves and becoming adaptable to new circumstances," said Serruto. With two weeks to go until their first game, the team still has time to gel and get the new players used to playing at the college level. With great players and a great coaching staff, there is no doubt that they will be ready come the start of the season. "While we are still very early on in the preseason, the entire team is constantly pushing themselves every day, to become better baseball players and everyone is competing their hardest everyday getting closer as a team and more competitive as a whole," D'Ambrosia added.

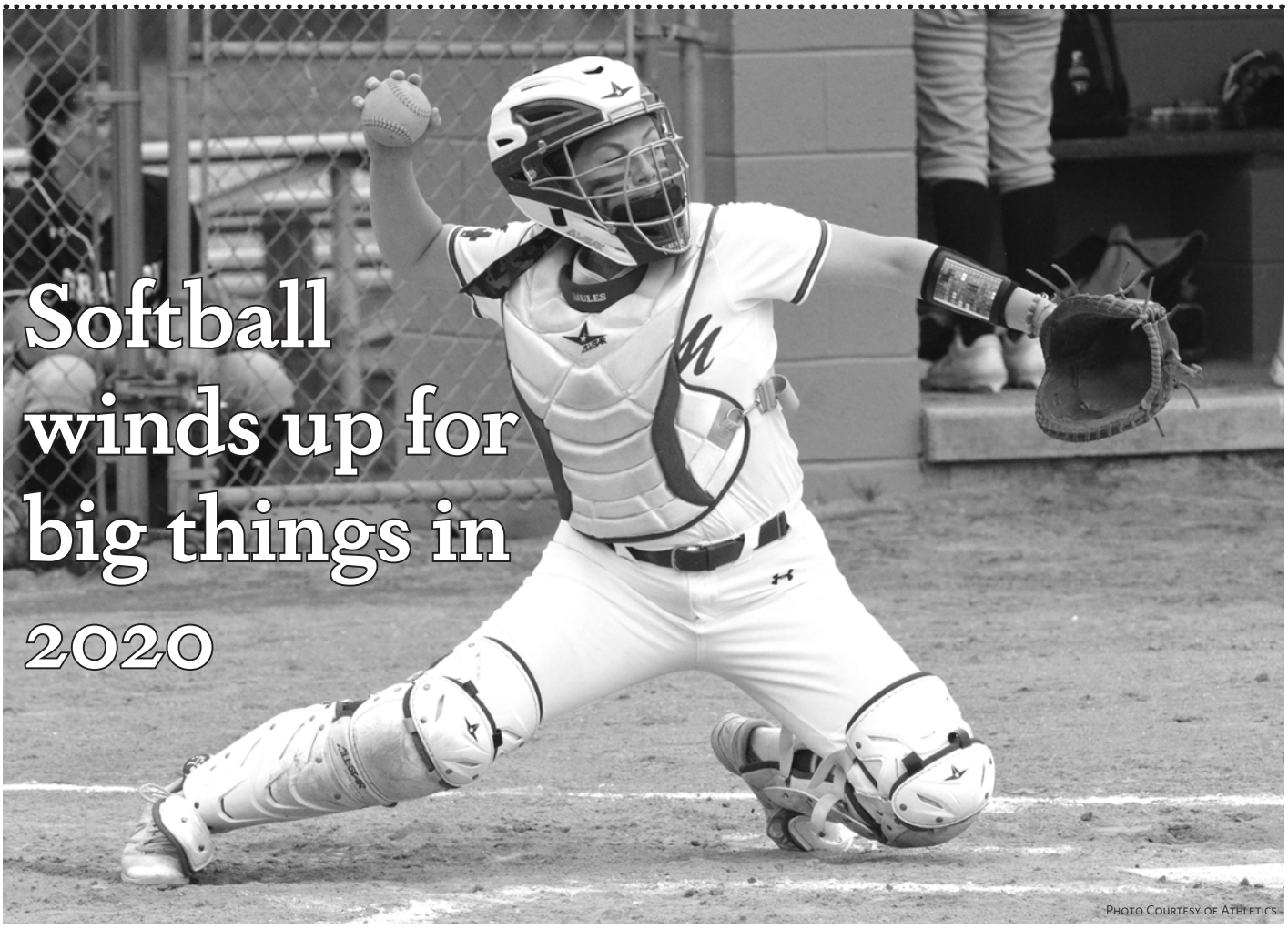
While making the playoffs is always the goal, the team has big plans as the season nears. "Our team always has the same goal of making the Centennial Conference playoffs and working our way to a Centennial Conference-Championship," Serruto said. "But with that said, our main focus is to take every game one game at a time, and that ultimately should lead us to many wins and a successful season," he added.

The team is not trying to think too far ahead, and taking things a game at a time will help the squad ultimately reach their goals. The baseball season is a long one, but this team is looking to make this a season to remember.

The Mules have clear sights on how they want the season to go. D'Ambrosia said it best: "The team's expectations this season are to win a conference championship. We have been to the playoffs the past two seasons, but our expectations aren't just to get there, but ... to finish the job," he explained.

The Mules hit the diamond on Feb. 22 and begin the Gallaudet Bison Classic with a match with Gwynedd Mercy at 10 a.m.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



Genna Cicchetti '22 crouches down to make a play in 2019.

Sarah Leavenworth takes over as head softball coach

By Declan Walkush
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg softball begins preparations for their season opener with a new face at the helm: head coach Sarah Leavenworth. Leavenworth was hired in July by the Muhlenberg athletic department after a successful four-year stint as the head coach at Wilkes University. When Leavenworth took over at Wilkes for the 2016 season, the team had not posted a winning record since the 2008 season. In her tenure at Wilkes, Leavenworth led the team to a 86-70 record. She will look to continue her winning ways with a young and poised Muhlenberg squad.

Leavenworth joins the Muhlenberg athletics staff in Lynn Tubman's second year as athletic director. Coach Leavenworth cited Tubman's leadership skills as one of the main factors drawing her to the position. "Muhlenberg's reputation for strong academics and very competitive athletic programs had put it on my radar when I first moved to the Lehigh Valley ten years ago. When the position opened this summer, I did some investigating before I applied and I got really positive feedback from everyone I spoke to. After speaking with several people, I was very drawn to the new leadership in the department of athletics with Lynn Tubman as the AD."

"Muhlenberg's reputation for strong academics and very competitive athletic programs had put it on my radar when I first moved to the Lehigh Valley 10 years ago."

The spirits of this young team, which in 2019 included five first-years in the starting lineup, are extremely high heading into the 2020 season. When asked about the team's response to the coaching change, 2019 Centennial Conference Gold Glove of the Year recipient Genna Cicchetti '22 answered, "The team has responded very well to Coach Maul's (Leavenworth) style and methods. She is very organized and knows what is best for her players."

It is clear to see that the team and Leavenworth already begin to mesh and build a unique relationship. Coach Leavenworth already has a nickname in "Coach Maul," "Maul" being short for her maiden name of Maulorico and it clearly indicates just how easily the group has come to accept Coach Leavenworth,

Expectations for the team are important to a coach like Leavenworth. With NCAA tournament experience as both a player with the University of Southern Mississippi and as a coach with Moravian College, Leavenworth

see **Softball** page 10

Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Feb. 8

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Merchant Marine
Saturday, Feb. 8 @ 1:30 p.m.
Westminster, Md.

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Saturday, Feb. 8 @ 2:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs McDaniel
Saturday, Feb. 8 @ 4:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Wrestling
Muhlenberg vs Johns Hopkins
Saturday, Feb. 8 @ 4:00 p.m.
Westminster, Md.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 13
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Nicolas Calá '21's new comic will never leaf you.

please turn to page 9, man...

NEWS

The Creative Writing Program hosted the annual Writers at Muhlenberg event. This year featured nonfiction writers discussing first-person narrative, persona, memoir and more.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

Muhlenberg's production of "A Raisin in the Sun" will be performed from Feb. 20 to Feb. 23. The play centers on the Younger family and tackles themes such as poverty and assimilation.

read more on 6

OP/ED

How has the new Student Activity Fee policy affected 'Berg's Student Government Association? SGA President Stephanie Ng '20 shares her point of view.

read more on 9

Courtesy of Stephanie Ng

SPORTS

Muhlenberg baseball has named its four senior captains for the upcoming season, but for Sam Arnold '20 and Billy Brittingham '20, it is nothing they can't handle.

read more on 12

Karly McCloskey // The Muhlenberg Weekly

The Gabriel House, once home to the Wescoe school, will now host the Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Education and the Muhlenberg College School of Graduate Studies.

Muhlenberg adds graduate programs

Expanding the scope of learning

By Sophie Sarnitsky
Co-News Editor

Muhlenberg's commitment to the academic success of a diverse community is to expand beyond undergraduate education. Last Thursday, the College announced the launch of two master's degree programs, one in organizational leadership and the other in applied analytics, which will begin next fall as part of the newly founded Muhlenberg College School of Graduate Studies. Dean of Graduate Studies Uppinder Mehan oversees the progress of these programs that will provide opportunities for career advancement and professional development to those with undergraduate degrees.

The School of Graduate Studies aims to bring flexibility to these programs so as to accommodate what Mehan calls the working professional.

"We want to address the kind of desire and hunger that's out there in the world of the working professional to get better credentials, so that they can climb higher in the organization that they're already in or look for different opportunities," explained Mehan.

In light of these new graduate programs, the name of the Wescoe School of Continuing Education will be changed to Muhlenberg College School of Continuing Education. While the schools will operate similarly, they should not be confused as the same.

> **"We're looking at providing a good deal of flexibility for our working adult population."**

"[The School of Graduate Studies] is similar to the Wescoe School in that we will be holding most of the classes in the evening, and then we have plans to perhaps have Saturday offerings as we develop more programs and see what the need is, as we will primarily be working with a smaller population of working adults," said Mehan. "The main difference, of course, is that these are graduate programs, so anybody entering these programs needs to already have their baccalaureate, whereas our other programs typically have either helped students finish their undergraduate degree or have given people a chance to work on their undergraduate degree in the evening and part time."

Because leadership is an inherent skill highly valued across all fields and disciplines, the master's degree program in organizational leadership will be rather versatile by offering various concentrations and certificates in diversity, equity and inclusion, communication, etc.

"The organizational leadership master's has a core that remains no matter what concentration you find yourself in ... and so, we're looking at providing a good deal of flexibility for our working adult population," said Mehan.

On the other hand, the program in applied analytics is more specifically defined in terms of what classes will be taken in order to fulfill the requirements for the degree; this program does not require two years of outside work experience like the organizational leadership program.

"The masters in applied analytics is more uniform, I think, because each course builds on the previous one. There is a set pattern of the path that the student will go on from when they first enroll to when they graduate; however, we will see variation in the forms of electives coming into the program," explained Mehan.

Beginning next semester, the School of Graduate Studies plans to be actively involved with the students and faculty of Muhlenberg's undergraduate programs. The goal is to get students thinking about continuing their education and providing them real opportunities to do so as more programs are added in

see Grad page 3

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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The Muhlenberg Weekly strives for accuracy in reporting and writing, but we acknowledge that mistakes happen. Readers are invited to submit corrections about errors in articles, and they should be submitted to weeklyeditor@gmail.com. Corrections are also brought to our staff's attention by our own editors and writers. Our staff will review the suggested correction, consult with the author of the article, and issue the appropriate correction. Online corrections are located at the bottom of the article. Print corrections are located within the paper, on the page indicated in the online edition. However, The Weekly does not grant take-down requests for articles.

ADVERTISING POLICY

We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 3
Suspicious Activity - 8:00 a.m.
Report of suspicious activity: trashing and vandalism to chair at Ettinger. There are no suspects at this time.

Tuesday, February 4
Disorderly Conduct - 6:12 p.m.
Report of argument at house on 22nd Street. Individuals were identified and spoken to.

Sick Student - 8:18 p.m.
Report of sick student in Prosser Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Wednesday, February 5
Sick Student - 9:35 p.m.
Report of sick student in Prosser Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Drug Violation: Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 10:29 p.m.
Report of possession of drug paraphernalia in Walz Hall. Individuals identified and spoken to. Items brought to Campus Safety and placed in evidence locker.

Thursday, February 6
Lock Down Drill - 1:00 p.m.
Report of lock down drill at Trexler Pavilion.

Sick Student - 5:32 p.m.
Report of sick student in Moyer Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Friday, February 7
Sick Student - 5:32 p.m.
Report of sick student in Walz Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. The student was transported to hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

Saturday, February 8
Vandalism: Criminal Mischief - 12:00 p.m.
Report of criminal mischief. Investigation to continue.

Alcohol Violation: Underaged Possession/Purchase/Consumption/Transport - 10:25 p.m.
Report of alcohol violation at Walz/Brown. Upon arrival, individual identified and spoken to. Alcohol disposed of. No further incident.

Dispatch Code: Point of Information - 10:25 p.m.
Report or noise complaint on N. 22nd Street. Resident spoken to. Area cleared. No further incident.

Sunday, February 9
Sick Student - 1:30 a.m.
Report of sick student on Chew Street. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Sick Student - 8:28 p.m.
Report of sick student in Brown Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. The student was transported to hospital by a Campus Safety Officer.

A creative approach to writing on campus

Creative nonfiction authors take 'Berg

Ayden Levine // The Muhlenberg Weekly

From left: Nadia Owusu, Tessa Fontaine and Mitchell Jackson read from their recently-published creative nonfiction books.

By Brianna Kovit
Contributing Writer

"I hate writing," Tessa Fontaine proclaimed to a room full of aspiring and professional penmans. Discussing the struggles of writer's block, she made it known that there never exists a good time to write. "If I waited for that block to dissipate, I'd never write anything."

Fontaine, Mitchell S. Jackson and Nadia Owusu were the featured writers at this semester's "Writers at Muhlenberg" event.

"The Creative Writing Program has these three-day conferences and Writers' Residency every year (except when we host our Living Writers series)," said Professor Linda Miller, who is the director of the Creative Writing program.

In the past, Muhlenberg has hosted a Poetry Conference and a Fiction Conference.

"It was time to focus on the genre of nonfiction," said Miller.

This conference and writers' residency consisted of two main events: a panel discussion on Feb. 5 and a reading and book signing on Feb. 6.

The topic of the panel was "The Reimagined Self," moderated by Professor Linda Miller. The writers discussed what their "I"s mean — that is, when they write first person accounts, is the narrator really them or simply a sought-after version of themselves?

"My 'I' is me on steroids," said Jackson. "The further I revise, the more I become a character."

Afterall, many would agree that the key of writing is found in rewriting.

"My father taught me to revise. My father taught me writing," said Owusu.

Owusu talked about her unique upbringing, having never lived in one place for longer than four years. She lived in Rome, Addis Ababa, Kampala, Dar es Salaam, Kumasi and London, all before coming to the United States at 18 years old. Often feeling like she did not have a home, her "reimagined world" inspired her writing.

"I reimagined what it means to belong," said Owusu.

The panel agreed that writers should allow themselves to "reimagine" their memories.

"We think in stories," said Fontaine. Taking a "sideways slide into memory" allows writers to focus on one moment or one object to "build a story."

"I think the way we identify ourselves and our narrative style in writing is so important because it's what makes us unique and fosters our creativity."

"The most memorable part of the panel for me was when persona versus identity was discussed," said Sofia Barone '22. "I think the way we identify ourselves and our narrative style in writing is so important because it's what makes us unique and fosters our creativity."

Jackson emphasized the importance of persona when identity becomes just too real.

"Identity becomes narrow," he said. "Realness restricts your identity." Thus, turn to persona, turn to the "character."

"I personally found Mitchell Jackson's account the most interesting because he was a formerly incarcerated person," said Becca Baitel '23. "That's not a perspective that you can encounter every day. It was very cool especially when he was talking about how he wrote about his family, and he didn't want his readers to know whose story correlated with whose. He wanted to leave it up for interpretation."

Jackson did not speak much about his time behind bars, but as Baitel is referencing, he did discuss his atypical family life at the second night's reading.

"The most memorable part of the conference was definitely the reading," said Elizabeth Mahony '23.

Jackson explained that the cover of his book *Survival Math* is a collection of photos of men in his family. Each essay inside tells the story of one man, but the reader does not know which story belongs to which face. This was done to eliminate stereotyping and keep the truth a mystery.

Jackson read an essay about his mother walking in on his father with another woman, Fontaine read an essay about her mother's declining health and Owusu read about her stepmother lying to her about how her father passed. Needless to say, you could hear a pin drop during these readings.

"A question I would have, that is definitely more of an intimate one, is how they address the hardships in their life," said Barone. "To have to reinterpret and reimagine memories can be difficult, and I wonder if there is a process each respective author takes in order to feel more in tune with their memories and voice when they write about the adversity they faced."

As Jackson said, sometimes your identity can become too real. But there's never a good time to get writing.

Fontaine suggested that the young writers in the audience enter contests with a "soon deadline" to force themselves to get something down on the page. Better yet, she suggested contests that you need to pay $5 to enter, because if you don't finish, well, then "you're burning $5."

From **Grad** page 1

the future.

"If you're a senior, and you've got room in your curriculum ... you very well could take a couple of the introductory graduate courses in applied analytics," said Mehan. "So, we're looking for that linkage to undergrad students as well as developing several four-plus-one plans in the various appropriate undergraduate areas as well. We're working hand-in-hand with the departments that the degrees are housed in, applied analytics being part of math and computer science. And, we're working with the accounting, business, economics and finance departments concerning organizational leadership."

Current undergrad students have voiced their opinions, and there seems to be a mix of feelings concerning the implementation of graduate studies programs.

"I think that Muhlenberg could benefit from adding more graduate studies programs, specifically focused on drama and music therapy, as I know that many people are psychology and theatre double majors and they have to go to graduate school to obtain the proper qualifications after their B.A. education," said Elizabeth Witek '23.

Others are concerned that this new focus on continuing education will take away from the values of a liberal arts education.

Meg Rennar '22 explained, "A big reason why I picked Muhlenberg was because of the fact that it was an undergraduate institution, and I knew that I would have a more personalized education. I don't really think graduate programs fall under the term 'liberal arts education' because the programs are so specific."

Mehan and the School of Graduate Studies express their excitement to continue working with undergraduate departments as new programs continue to emerge.

"When the school adds more programs, we want to be very responsive to the needs of the region, and we also want to be really responsive to the interests, desires and resources of the number of college faculty and students as well. It's important to see what kind of push there is for having further educational opportunities for our existing undergraduate body and [to] see what we can do to help make that happen. I think having that dual vision makes it really exciting to think about what else we can offer and the way we've structured," Mehan emphasized.

Muslim Student Association reemerges

Students kick-start the process of increasing representation on campus

By Samantha Singman
Staff Writer

With support of the Chaplain's Office and the Center for Multicultural Life, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) will be re-lauching on Muhlenberg's campus.

The MSA has been on and off campus since 1980. According to club advisor Sharon Albert, senior lecturer in religion studies, the demographics of Muhlenberg have made it hard to maintain this club due to "the relatively small number of Muslim students on campus."

Pastor Kristen Glass Perez explains that, while there has been a continuous presence of Muslim students on campus, not all choose to identify.

This is why Albert feels this club is so valuable. She believes it will "open the space for Muslims to represent themselves rather than being represented primarily by well-intentioned allies."

"'Berg MSA is a home among this one, and its expansion will allow Muslims to feel part of a community."

The club is set to provide a space to share common issues, interests and concerns. In addition, it creates a forum for raising awareness for issues that Muslims may face on campus and beyond.

Students feel much the same way. According to Nour Yousry '23, "Berg MSA is a home among this one, and its expansion will allow Muslims to feel part of a community." It is a place where they can "share their Muslim values and traditions."

Students also hope that the MSA can be a place for learning and hearing other students' insights on their own values and traditions.

Current president of the organization Aya Kanan '23 emphasizes that the association is "for everyone, and [is] not limited to just Muslims on campus." The club's events and meetings are open to people of any faith or no faith. A primary goal that the club has is to build a strong community of family, friends and allies on campus.

While the club is still starting up, they look ahead to the month of Ramadan, the Islamic month of fasting. The organization is planning on hosting the meal of Iftar, the breaking of the fast meal that occurs at dusk. They hope for this to be the main event of the semester and have hopes of inviting MSA students from neighboring LVAIC colleges.

At the moment, the College does not host religious services for Muslims themselves, but they are helping students find and access a dedicated space for Salat daily prayers and are willing to provide anything that students would request. They are also able to refer students to off campus spaces as needed.

The club leaders have decided that they want to start small. They are starting with advertising the club and attracting new members. Ultimately, Yousry hopes that the "MSA will give a stage for Muslim students to empower themselves and each other" as well as "allow for the inclusion of more diverse groups on our campus."

Suit-up!

Career Center sends job-minded students to JCPenney

By Cydney Wilson
Co-News Editor

Muhlenberg's Career Center underwent extensive remodelling four years ago, creating a much more robust presence on campus. The Career Center's website shares that it offers "free resources to search for internships, jobs, explore careers, network with Muhlenberg alumni and much more!"

On Sunday, Feb. 9, the Career Center participated in an event entitled "Suit-Up" hosted by the JCPenney at the Lehigh Valley Mall, where local college students could receive up to 60% off on business attire upon presenting their Student I.D. Additionally, the Sephora inside the JCPenney offered free make-overs, and the salon offered free hair consultations.

Ryan Smolko, Assistant Director of the Career Center and the campus contact for the event, says, "I think one of the biggest things is when you're going through the process of applying for an internship or a job and you do all that work and you finally get to the point of getting an interview, a lot of the time clothing might be something that you didn't necessarily think about. And, if you're geographically far away from home, it's tough to get stuff fast. And then comes the cost factor. When you're thinking about everything that goes into [the] internship and job search, cost is a factor. And to be able to get some basic professional clothing for anywhere from 60 to 90% off is pretty nice."

Joseph Marcacci '23, who was wearing a suit he purchased at the event when he was interviewed by The Weekly, expressed the value of a reduction in cost for college students, saying, "We all have a lot of financial troubles no matter who you are going to college. And so something that's going to really benefit me in the future, especially like with this suit that I'm wearing right now, I'm going to have it for a while. And so, yeah, I think it's really beneficial, especially for people that are coming from households that are not as fortunate."

"When you're thinking about everything that goes into [the] internship and job search, cost is a factor. And to be able to get some basic professional clothing for anywhere from 60 to 90% off is pretty nice."

"I got a suit, a tie and shoes for literally $130 ... this suit was like 70 percent off from its original price. So I actually got a good suit for a really, really good price," said Marcacci. He added that he would not attend this same event again, saying, "I don't need another suit, but another event where they're lowering prices for college students, depending on what it is, definitely."

Smolko added that in the past the Career Center has tried to provide professional attire for students, saying, "A couple of years ago, we used to have a professional clothing closet where students could come and get stuff, but it was one of those things where it was tough to maintain. It took a lot of space, it was a little bit of a hodgepodge."

An event like this was a first for 'Berg, and the Career Center plans to continue offering opportunities like this one to students. Smolko says, "This was something that JCPenney has started in the past two years. And it's something that we will continue to participate in every semester."

Of the future, Smolko says, "We'll be advertising and probably doing a little bit more robust transportation offering in the future and really trying to target underclassmen in that as well, like residential services, student activities, things like that."

Marcacci said of the event, "Yeah, this was actually really helpful. And I'm really glad this came up. And just ... knowing that, oh, I'm getting stuff off and this is sponsored by my college puts it in a really good light and I'm really glad it happened."

Alum returns to discuss Native activism

Dr. Ted Gordon discusses the tribal casino movement

By Sarah Coffel
Contributing Writer

Last Thursday, the Anthropology and Sociology Department invited Muhlenberg alum Ted Gordon '06, Ph.D., to discuss Native activism and the tribal casino movement. Gordon, who completed his Ph.D. at the University of California, Riverside, focused his discussion on the Cabazon tribe, a small group of Cahuilla.

The Cabazon tribe, comprised of 12 adults, opened a poker club in a double-wide trailer, and three days later a SWAT Team arrested them. This led to the 1987 Supreme Court case California v. Cabazon, which resulted in a win for the Cabazon, securing the rights for all native nations across the United States to open casinos.

Gordon posed a question to the audience, "Why does Native activism matter?" His main point highlighted how marginalized populations can see structures invisible to those in power. To support this idea, he presented Sandra Harding's Standpoint Theory, which demonstrates how women, for example, can see things men aren't able to see. Native populations are an underrepresented marginalized group, providing different political structures and ways of governing.

"Why does Native activism matter?"

The tribal casino movement is just one example of Native activism, which has been seen in environmental justice during the recent Dakota Access Pipeline protests in 2016. The protests were led by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, who opposed the installation of the pipeline because it threatened native lands. In addition to the Native Sioux, 300 tribal governments sent support to North Dakota, which was the largest gathering of native people in 100 years.

Gordon's talk drew upon the recent purchase of the Sands Bethlehem casino by Wind Creek Hospitality in May 2019. Wind Creek is affiliated with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, who currently reside in Alabama. Despite the Indian Removal Act, the tribe remained there throughout the era of Jim Crow laws. During this period of time, everything was framed as either white or black, but the Poarch Band created a gray area, dividing lighter-skinned and darker-skinned natives between white and black schools, respectively.

The main takeaway from Gordon's presentation is the persistence of Native nations, and as Gordon described them, they are "indomitable" because they have withstood military and forced assimilation, yet they are still here and active.

After the Q & A, Anna Hatke '21 described how coming out of this lecture, she has gained a better appreciation for the respective activist groups and how they handle issues surrounding territorial rights and environmental issues. Hatke said, "It's important, going forward, to remember that our perspective is skewed and that we're unable to approach many issues in an obtuse manner based on our current understanding because we are a niche group."

Benjamin Carter, Ph.D., Chairman of the Sociology and Anthropology Department, discussed how the department brought Gordon in for several reasons, one of them being the intersectionality of the tribal gaming movement, which is connected to media & communication, religion, business and many other departments of study.

The main goal of hosting this event, Carter said, "was simply to add a component of history and an understanding of the US that includes Native Americans. Many narratives, such as most of what we are taught in high school, do not include them." In the future, Carter hopes to bring more events that engage multiple departments across campus.

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Exploring race and inclusion in classical music:
The Music Department's Celebration of African American Poets & Composers starts with a bang

By Katherine Dickey
General Editorial Assistant

To kick off the Music Department's Celebration of African American Poets & Composers, faculty members from across campus held a panel discussion called Race in Classical Music on Friday, Feb. 7. Organized and led by Patricia Budlong, lecturer of voice, the panel was filled out by Brooke Vick, Ph.D., associate provost for faculty and diversity initiatives, Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D., interim co-director of Africana studies and assistant professor of English and Kassandra Hartford, Ph.D., assistant professor of Music.

Each panelist gave a statement at the start of the event detailing their own connection to the issue of the erasure of black artists in classical music. Vick, whose expertise is in the psychology of bias, discussed the effects that the historical exclusion of the art of marginalized groups from the mainstream has had on the people who belong to those groups.

"What tends to happen psychologically is that our assumption is that those voices, those artists, those musicians, writers, scientists did not exist," said Vick. "Our assumption is that they weren't creating, that they weren't expressing, that they weren't contributing to the culture of their time in critical ways. If we don't see it, we assume it's because it's not there, not because it's been hidden, not because there's something that we've lost. And when that erasure is happening, then those groups aren't able to then look to say, 'This wonderful music that we're celebrating, this wonderful poetry — I did that, people I'm connected to did that, I can claim some source of pride from that work'... You're not able to see yourself and to be acknowledged as part of a significant contribution to our culture."

Budlong detailed how the history of classical vocal instruction has led to the exclusion of African American voices, discussing how most classical vocal pedagogy is centered on 18th and 19th-century Italian operatic techniques and how that has led to a largely white and male canon. She also added her hopes for what this series of events could achieve for Muhlenberg, saying, "Predominantly white institutions we would fall into that category here at Muhlenberg have done a historically woeful job of looking beyond the canon of European vocal instruction. Historically Black Colleges in the US have done a much better job of turning out well-rounded students in both the African American, US American folk song traditions and the European canon. And our hope here is that we can start to move that needle a little bit within our community."

Courtesy of Office of Communications

Brooke Vick, Emanuela Kucik, Kassandra Hartford and Patricia Budlong discuss the erasure of Black artists in classical music during a panel discussion.

"I will say that I was told that I could not say that Robert Owens is empirically among the five greatest art song composers that ever lived. But I will tell you that he's on my top five, and I think he should be on everybody's top ten."

Hartford took a different tack than the others, and, rather than detailing this history of exclusion, focused on educating the audience on the lush variety of the African American composers that have been excluded from the canon. She tackled some of the myths that she has encountered in her study of African American composers with a few different strategies.

Myth 1: There aren't that many African American composers, which she debunked with a full double-sided handout and an effusive recap of both who was there and who she felt guilty about having left out. *Myth 2: Works by African American composers will sound recognizably black*, and therefore aren't palatable to wider audiences. She asserted that these myths lead to a lot of tokenism in music programs, where any given performance might contain only one African American artist out of many. This myth she debunked by giving enthusiastic recommendations to the audience, saying, "If you like Copeland and Barber and early Elliott Carter, if you like lush, beautiful, tonal music with more interesting harmonies than Schubert or Schumann, your go-to men are H. Leslie Adams and Robert Owens and your go-to female composer is Margaret Bonds. All of them, they write in this absolutely lush style, it's incredibly singable music. And I will say that I was told that I could not say that Robert Owens is empirically among the five greatest art song composers that ever lived. But I will tell you that he's on my top five, and I think he should be on everybody's top ten." She also went on to play the audience a Robert Owens piece at the end of the talk to demonstrate its beauty.

Kucik finished out the opening statements, detailing the effect that black art has had on asserting black humanity and on combatting the effects that the erasure of that same art has had on our country. "Blackness is writing poetry and it's writing symphonies, and sometimes it's writing about racism and sometimes it's directly trying to engage with racist notions and dismantle them," said Kucik.

"And sometimes it's just writing a poem about these rainbows because you like them and recognizing that that act, being able to say, 'I just want to write a poem about puppies and rainbows,' is very much a political act. That is saying this, too, is the African American experience. And that in itself is a massive claim to what it means to be Black," Kucik continued. "That really challenges the notion of Blackness as monolithic, which is the idea that black, it's all one thing, that there is an African American experience or a Black experience as opposed to it being experienced, comprised of millions and millions of various experiences."

Kucik continued to emphasize the need for both inclusion of black artists in the mainstream canons of both literature and classical music, as well as specialized classes dedicated to the individual study of those cultures that have been swept under the rug for so long. In the move to a more discussion-style panel, the four together jumped on this point and used each of their own disciplines and experiences to discuss the merits of both broad and specific study of black art.

When Alice Banta '21 raised a question about what to do about racist compositions already in the widely accepted classical music canon, like the opera Carmen, a piece that presents problematic racialized stereotypes, but is often still performed, Hartford answered, saying, "[Carmen is] supposed to be a Roma. She's supposed to be sort of sexually free. And then the idea is that she's a bad woman. So at the end, she gets stabbed. And in the original, by the day, we're supposed to think she deserves it... And in a new production made in Italy a few years ago, at the end, instead of having Don José stab Carmen, Carmen stabs Don José. It's just like 'You've been stalking me for the whole opera. This is, in fact, the appropriate outcome. This is the moment where you advance on me with a weapon and I turn it on you.' I think that that gets to some of the things that you can do with things that are in the canon, that reimagine their meanings in very different ways."

At the end of the panel, Budlong reiterated that this event was only the beginning of a series of events meant to take a look at how Muhlenberg's music curriculum can and should change to include more African American artists.

Of the event, Emily Kirchner '22 said, "I'm excited to listen to some of the things that Kassie [Hartford] had on that list, I am definitely going to do that," to which Banta added, "Like Robert Owens, we have to look him up!"

The music department faculty, Rejoice Gospel Choir and other choral ensembles will perform a concert as part of the Celebration of African American Poets & Composers in Empie Theatre this Friday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Staging the moments between: ‘Berg theater prepares for *A Raisin in the Sun*

By Ellen Powers
Senior Staff Writer

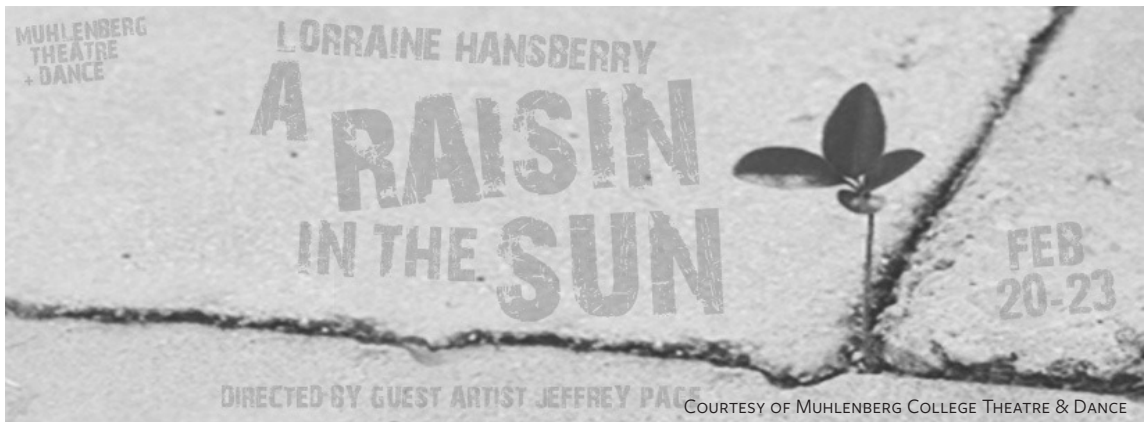
The next production to hit the Muhlenberg mainstage will be Lorraine Hansberry’s groundbreaking 1959 play *A Raisin in the Sun*. Muhlenberg’s production will be directed by Muhlenberg College’s guest artist, Emmy Award-nominated choreographer and director Jeffrey Page.

Assimilation and immigration continue to be hot political topics today, and the continued poverty faced by the Youngers and others in their community is also an issue throughout the United States today.

A Raisin in the Sun centers around the Youngers, an African-American family living in a small, worn-down apartment on the south side of Chicago. They are about to receive a $10,000 life insurance check following the death of protagonist Walter Lee Younger’s father, and each member of the family hopes the newfound money will be used in a different way. Lena, the family matriarch, hopes to save the money to move the family out of their apartment, whereas her children, Walter Lee and Beneatha, want to use it to further their own interests; Walter wants to invest in a liquor store, and Beneatha wants to put the money towards her higher education and medical school. Throughout the play, the family struggles to find hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

The Muhlenberg Weekly had the opportunity to sit in on the designer run, in which the production designers (costume, set, lights and sound), the crew and the stage management team watch the actors perform the show. The designer run took place in the First Floor Rehearsal Hall, where they have made excellent use of rehearsal props and costumes in combination with the set pieces that are housed in the studio space. The studio space really felt like it was a snapshot of the Youngers’ world: certain props and pieces of furniture were period-accurate, photos from the time period along with the costume and set designs were posted on the walls. This was crucial in making the atmosphere of A Raisin in the Sun completely come alive in the space.

At this designer run, Maereg Gebretekle ‘22 stood in for the role of Walter Lee Younger, who will be played in the performances by Jalil Robinson ’22. Although she referenced the script, Gebretekle knew all of the blocking for Walter, so the other performers could still run the play as normal. Other casting includes Interim Director of Multicultural Life Kiyaana Cox-Jones as Lena Younger and her son Messiah James Jones as Travis Younger, the son of Walter Lee and his wife Ruth, who



Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Theatre & Dance

Lorraine Hansberry’s groundbreaking 1950s masterpiece *A Raisin in the Sun* hits the Baker stage from Feb. 20 to Feb. 23.

is played by Mercy Olajobi ’21. In a college setting, it is not that common for a character who is a child to be played by someone that is the character’s age. Having Jones as Travis makes his character feel even more authentic to the audience, and his onstage interactions with his offstage mother make the family dynamic as believable as the fantastic dialogue Hansberry has written.

Throughout the play, the family struggles to find hope in a seemingly hopeless situation.

One moment of this particular rehearsal that stood out was when Page had each member of the cast, crew and creative team introduce themselves and say what their role in the production was. It implicitly made the point clear that everyone involved in the production was important, not just the actors onstage. This also suggested that such a welcoming environment was present throughout the rehearsal process.

A fascinating choice that has been made for the production is to have the actors help set up the various scene changes. They move different set pieces and props around as period-accurate transition music plays. In this way, the audience is able to see the “in-between” moments between scenes, giving life to moments that are just jumps in time in Hansberry’s script.

Watching Hansberry’s words come to life through the excellent performances made it evident that this play, despite being written 60 years ago, is still extremely contemporary. Beneatha Younger, played by Nicole Morris ’21, struggles with her sense of identity, having an intense conversation with her Nigerian friend Joseph Asagai, played by Frederick Marte ’20, about assimilation. Assimilation and immigration continue to be hot political topics, and the continued poverty faced by the Youngers and others in their community also remains an issue throughout the United States today.

Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* is packed with political discussions, serious family dynamics and even some moments of comedy. Each of the actors give compelling performances, completely embodying each of their respective characters and developing the relationships between each of the characters in the play flawlessly. Set design by faculty member Curtis Dretsch makes the small and worn-down space in which the Youngers are living that much more prominent, fitting in with the idea of the “rat trap,” as Lena Younger refers to it. From incredibly complex and thought-provoking characters and themes created by Hansberry to the way these ideas are superbly enhanced through Page’s direction, Muhlenberg College’s production of *A Raisin in the Sun* is certainly going to be a fantastic and insightful experience for the community. The play runs from Thursday, Feb. 20 to Sunday, Feb. 23.

‘Berg Fringe artist spotlight: Kasler and Wilkie shine a light on the climate crisis

Max Kasler ’20 and Gwen Wilkie ’20.

By Danny Milkis
Assistant A&C Editor

Imagine this: the universal hourglass has drained on the Earth, and the planet has been depleted of its art, science, cities and humanity. Is there a way out once it’s too late? Is there anyone left who can fix this dire situation and restore the Earth to its former glory?

”There’s really not a lot of MT [musical theater] rep talking about climate change.”

These were the questions asked at a table for two at Bamboo this summer, as Max Kasler ’20 and Gwen Wilkie ’20 took on the daunting task of planning an original musical theatre piece, “The Garden of Henohm.” They talked about the issues they were most passionate about, and climate justice emerged as a constant that simply seemed to fit the bill.

“I think the thing about this project is that we’re sort of combining both of our talents into one, and we liked the idea of keeping it simple with an acoustic project,” says Kasler. “There’s really not a lot of MT [musical theater] rep talking about climate change, at least not right now.”

When asked why climate change was so important to them, the two composers had very different responses. They both felt the burgeoning weight of the neglect of the climate crisis very heavily, and explained the moments that made them truly realize the full global scope of industrially-caused environmental decay.

“For me, it’s been within the last three or four years,” explained Kasler. “In general all the crap that’s been happening is just unacceptable, and I’ve been uneasy about the whole thing for a little while.”

“I’ve also been feeling it for a while,” Wilkie continued. “It really snapped on the Fourth of July. You could visibly see the pollution on that day. You could see how much of it was being caused over the course of just one night. That’s when it struck me as a generational issue. Older people will not be around to see the consequences of what they’re doing, so they honestly don’t see a reason to stop.”

Using these ideas and concerns as am-

see **Artist** page 7

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munition, the two came up with a basis for their musical: time is running out, and a small underground colony of humans need to fix things now in regards to the climate crisis. However, *The Garden of Henohm* is a devised piece, and that means that a group of actors are working alongside the production team to create their characters from scratch.

"We have our own vision and are sort of guiding these characters along," Wilkie explained, "But we are more generally thinking about the characters and plot. The actors think more specifically about how they want to shape the story and what they contribute to it."

Kasler built off of that by saying, "We've been giving them a lot about prompts like, 'What is your character's biggest secret?' and 'Where do you live?' and we also ask music and lyric questions, such as, 'Are there things your character is singing that you think they wouldn't sing?'"

"A coming of age story, Chrys is figuring out what her life is and if she will ever get to see the surface again."

A very intriguing aspect of the plot of Kasler and Wilkie's musical is that all of the characters have plant or earth names with symbolism.

"Our main character Chrys (short for Chrysanthemum) lives underground with her younger brother Ash and her parents, Evan and Adam," Kasler explained. "Elder and Saffron are also members of this community. Over time, the surface became unsuitable for human beings and they are confined to this hideaway. A coming of age story, Chrys is figuring out what her life is and if she will ever get to see the surface again. It's kind of a push and pull between the parents and older characters being terrified and the younger characters exploring their curiosity."

As far as the writing process, the two are hard at work, trying to crank out one song per week in the free time that they have. Their Fringe performance will be roughly 45 minutes to an hour long, and they explain that this could be a great compact project to take on the road and potentially show as an educational presentation in schools.

"I'm hoping that this will be the first step in the musical we're writing," said Wilkie, "and a way to get feedback, both good things and bad things."

"One of the cool things about theatre is that when you see it you can expect to feel something," Kasler expressed, "and we hope that people leave our show feeling something about this topic and hopefully end up thinking about it."

Of course, the two have put a great deal of thought into what they would like the musical to become after their performance in this year's 'Berg Fringe, which runs from Apr. 17-19 with exact showtimes to be announced soon. Kasler and Wilkie expressed that the process is far from over and that they hope to see their work continue to be workshopped into a full-length, two-hour long version.

Kasler continued by explaining that he hopes, above all, that this piece will be a conversation-starter, and that the pair's work will break new ground, open the eyes of their audience and bring an issue into the limelight that is drastically underestimated.

Memories made movement: A *Master Chroeographers* review

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

From Thursday, Feb. 6 to Saturday, Feb. 8, the annual spring dance performance, *Master Choreographers*, debuted in Empie Theater for students, faculty, staff and community members to enjoy. Masters presented seven different dance pieces, choreographed by both Muhlenberg faculty members from the dance department and some guest choreographers. Works featured were choreographed by Heidi Cruz-Austin, Megan Flynn, Shelley Oliver, Yoshito Sakuraba, Randall Anthony Smith, Karen Dearborn and Bill Evans.

At the beginning of the show, Pattie Bostick-Winn was honored for her influence on dance education in the Lehigh Valley. A professional dancer for over ten years, she directed her own family dance studio for sixteen years and joined Muhlenberg and Cedar Crest's dance faculty, teaching ballet and jazz. She has performed worldwide, but returned back to Allentown for Friday's performance of *Masters*, and was awarded before the show began.

"The chemistry I formed with the dancers, community, faculty and space was unlike anything I've experienced before."

Directly after, the evening began with "Tower 7," a dance inspired by Nnedi Okorafor's *The Book of the Phoenix* choreographed by Heidi Cruz-Austin. With its contemporary style for traditional ballet pointe, this piece was the ideal opener for the night.

From the second the lights dimmed, audiences were enchanted by the grace and beauty of the dancers. Clad in black, they caught audience members by surprise and revealed their vibrantly colored "wings" towards the end of the dance.

Three-time *Masters* performer and dance veteran Samantha Sibilia '21 was a part of the piece and emphasized that she loves performing in Masters because of "the collaborative process with the dance faculty." Another experience unique to *Masters*, according to Sibilia, is the role of the dancers in "helping [the choreographers] bring their story to life on the stage."

"*Master Choreographers* gave me the performance experience I've always dreamt of having," Marissa Camper '23 noted. "The production taught me the value of perseverance and professionalism in dance. We rehearsed from September to February every Wednesday and Sunday to make our piece as polished as possible."

"Working with Megan Flynn and the other truly wonderful and talented dancers in the cast was a dream come true," Morgan Randall '23 exclaimed. "For all of us in the cast, before the last show, we were reminded by senior Heather Dutton ['20] how much Muhlenberg is a part of who we are and how it holds such a special place in our hearts, the dance studios especially."

Randall performed in the second piece of the night, "Portraits of Placeness," a modern dance piece about the memories and connections people associate with certain places and memories. Between the diversity in dance genres, high energy and evident passion for what these dancers do, *Masters* was truly a standout in the arts community this year.

"*Master Choreographers* prepares college students for successful careers in dance and beyond," Camper said.

"We have all been creating together for *Masters* since September in the DST [Dance Studio Theatre]," Randall said. "Crying together as we walked off stage and hugging each other before we went back on for our section of the dance; the chemistry I formed with the dancers, community, faculty and space was unlike anything I've experienced before. Once again, dance has proven to be much bigger than just moving my body, and anyone who witnessed *Master Choreographers* would most likely agree with me."

The show concluded with the tap spectacular "Cascades," which featured a live, three-piece jazz band augmented by the rhythms of the tap dancers. Capner, who performed in "Cascades," added that, "Shelley [Oliver] pushed us with her absolutely brilliant choreography and by investing months of her time and energy into making 'Cascades' a true masterpiece. And I am so grateful for all that she does for Muhlenberg and the wider tap community."

Photo Courtesy of Marco Calderon

Morgan Litzenberger '20 and Jalil Robinson '22 dance in "Agape's Touch Beyond Earthly Attachment."

Masters was a beautiful collection of different dances and the stories behind them. While Muhlenberg dance students got the opportunity to work with distinguished faculty, many of them felt very connected to their pieces and experiences throughout their preparation for the show. Congratulations to the cast of *Master Choreographers* on a beautiful performance.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

SGA, we're paying attention

You can read last week's front-page story "Just a little 'off the top'" for the full run-down, but here's the gist: Student Government used to have total control over clubs' budgets, and they also used to have a $112,000-deep reserve fund. Now, they don't. The $112,000 reserve, which was being slowly chipped away by the previous SCORE-form driven budgetary system, will be donated to an as-yet-undetermined array of student hardship initiatives, despite the fact that SGA has put forth plans to spend the money on issues that students say matter to them, like fixing the ineffective desks in Moyer, that have been discouraged by the faculty.

Was this move totally bad and wrong? No. Student hardship initiatives could always use more support, and who knows — the new committee might find a way to shake up the current budgetary hierarchy in a way that more efficiently allocates funding.

What we at The Weekly are cautious about is the timeline on which all this occurred. SGA claims they were only alerted about the change two or three days before the official vote that changed the organization's fundamental function, and were not fully informed about the plan's final form or proceedings. The Weekly was given the tip by Dean Gulati on the day of our last production, putting us on a tight timeline to get the news out there from more than one perspective. Why was it so necessary for this plan to be enacted immediately, with almost no collaboration on the part of SGA?

We, too, are curious about past instances in which SGA has been asked by the administration to use their reserve to fund a salaried position, the Director of Prevention Education. Under 2013 amendments to the Clery Act, which deals with crime reportings on campus and partners with Title IX to provide protections to victims of sexual assault, colleges and universities must provide students, faculty and staff with ongoing sexual violence prevention education. At Muhlenberg, this responsibility came to be that of the Director of Prevention Education. In 2017, SGA voted to fund the position under the premise that there would be a nationwide search to fill it. Instead, a Muhlenberg counselor, Ann Marie Stevens, was appointed to the role, and by the spring semester of 2019, she was gone. Current director Jules Purnell succeeded Stevens this fall.

Regardless of whether or not SGA felt that this position was important and necessary (as it is!), they should not have been asked to pay a college employee's salary with reserve money from the Student Activities fee, especially when student-generated proposals such as fixing Moyer desks using the same fund are not taken seriously. While this continues to be a developing story, The Weekly will continue to cover it and ensure that the student body, for whom we (try to) advocate, is always informed to the best of our ability.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

La traduzione d'identità: Un'americana in Italia

By Laura Santo
Contributing Writer

Quando sono arrivata in Italia per studiare all'estero, era l'inverno. Mi sono determinata che per quattro mesi avrei migliorato la mia abilità con la lingua italiana, avrei imparato come vivere all'estero, e avrei assaggiato ogni offerto di cibo. Con cappotto viola addosso, ho iniziato una vita nuova così.

In Italia ho abitato con una famiglia meravigliosa. Mi hanno chiamato "La Laura," come dicono la gente della loro città. La madre, Samantha, ha fatto la venditrice di metalli riciclati e il padre, Stefano, ha fatto uomo d'affari finanziari. C'erano tre figli che hanno avuto undici, quattordici, e sedici anni. Tutti i ragazzi hanno usato soprannomi. La figlia maggiore, Margherita, si è chiamata "Maggie," Ludovica si è chiamata "Vicky," e Eduardo si è chiamato "Dodo." Anche c'era un cane, Mely, il quale Samantha mi ha detto per scherzo è stato il figlio preferito.

Tutta la famiglia ha voluto parlare con me in inglese. Secondo me, era la loro ragione prima di tutto per ospitare una studentessa americana. Ero un'opportunità di provare a parlare inglese quotidiana. Andrebbe bene per loro, ma per me? Sapevo che ho voluto migliorare con la lingua italiana. Quindi, ho deciso sempre a rispondere in italiano ogni volta mi hanno parlato in inglese. È funzionato bene. Abbiamo provato usare le lingue secondarie per noi stessi, e insieme abbiamo creato un modo di capirci.

La mia vita italiana ha continuato. Ho iniziato a bere il caffè, ho iniziato a capire i treni italiani (primariamente che sono impossibili capire completamente perché non hanno senso), e ho imparato le regole non dette per comportarsi nelle città italiane. Stavo migliorando la mia abilità con la lingua, anche se nessun italiano ha pensato per un secondo che non sia stata una straniera. Quindi, cos'è stato il problema?

Perché c'era un problema, non grande, ma un problema lo stesso. È stata la mia identità, e per due motivi. Il primo era una situazione linguistica. Ho deciso di parlare solo in italiano con la mia famiglia ospitante. Ma il problema era che non sapevo come rappresentarmi in italiano. Stavo creando un'identità nuova, un'identità che ho chiamato "La Laura," perché veramente la versione inglese della "Laura" che ero per ventuno anni in America non aveva la capacità di tradurre se stessa. Non mi sono resa conto prima che la mia identità come "Laura" esisteva solo in inglese.

In America, ogni giorno faccio e dico cose che hanno significati culturali. Sono cresciuta in America, e quindi capisco il testo qui. Capisco come voglio esprimermi e come usare la lingua inglese e a farlo senza un pensiero. Ma in Italia e' stato tutto diverso. Non ho capito totalmente il testo italiano. Sicuramente lo stavo imparando, ma ho dovuto pensare tanto per decidere come esprimermi. Tante volte è sembrato di essere solo supposizione che ho usato per fare la decisione di come esprimermi. E questo... questo era sinceramente pauroso.

Il secondo motivo era una situazione personale. Stavo cambiando. Non solo perché stavo parlando in italiano, ma perché ogni giorno ho imparato come vivere in un posto così lontano dalla mia casa. Ho visto nuovi posti, ho fatto nuove cose, e ho deciso di cambiarmi. La versione di Laura che e' arrivata in Italia con il cappotto viola non esisteva più.

Ogni giorno sono diventata più La Laura, perché ogni giorno ho dovuto creare nuovi modi per esprimermi in italiano. Questi nuovi decisioni di come ho parlato o come ho descritto le cose non mi hanno cambiato dopo una notte. Ma poco a poco, stavo cambiando. Ho pensato in inglese e in italiano, e quando ho parlato con la mia mamma, qualche volte e' stato difficile ricordare le parole inglesi. La mia mente ha pensato in una versione di inglese e italiano insieme che ora non posso descrivere chiaramente.

Ho affrontato un piccolo crisi d'identità. La versione di La Laura che stavo creando non è stata semplicemente una traduzione della Laura americana perché lei non esisteva più. La Laura stava diventando una nuova Laura a suo pieno diritto. Ovviamente, mi sono resa conto che si puo' cambiare tanto durante la vita. Ma la mia esperienza di studiare all'estero mi ha mostrato che posso cambiare tanto e posso cambiare rapidamente, specificamente quando devo scoprire come "tradurmi" in un'altra lingua. Probabilmente non sono stata la prima persona di avere un'esperienza all'estero così, ma nessuno mi ha parlato di quello primo di andare.

Quando sono partita dall'Italia per ritornare a casa, era la primavera. Lasciando il cappotto viola lì, ho iniziato una vita nuova, Laura e La Laura insieme.

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

A love letter to those learning to love themselves

By Grace Oddo
Staff Writer

Despite the barren trees, blustering chill and gray skies, Muhlenberg's campus is as vibrant as ever. Winter break gave students an opportunity to rest and recharge, and now that the new semester is in full swing, students here have found their rhythm. The novelty of the new semester is so refreshing; students here are taking new classes, making more friends and exploring the opportunities that this incredible little school has to offer.

Yet, with how busy campus seems to be, it is also easy to feel incredibly alone around this time of year.

I don't want this piece to be a tirade against Valentine's Day. However, I think that it's important to acknowledge how difficult it can be to spend the most romantic holiday of the year (besides Presidents' Day) without a significant other. After all, there are reminders seemingly everywhere you look. We see it in public, as we observe the bouquets of flowers decorating the shelves of supermarkets. We watch it play out on the screen — the commercials on television try and "sell" love as if romance can be bought with a diamond ring or "decadent" chocolates. Most importantly, we see it as we scroll through our social media.

I am dedicating this piece to those whose hearts break a little when they see these reminders of romance. Perhaps you've just ended a relationship that was not working, or perhaps you've been on the receiving end of heartbreak. In some form or another, we've all been there. Look out for yourself on Valentine's Day, and always.

This piece also goes out to those who are learning to love themselves again. The journey to finding yourself again after a tough time is extensive, and healing is not a linear process. Trust yourself that you're going to get there. And seek support from resources if you need it.

Perhaps Valentine's Day is not just a holiday to celebrate couples and companionship. It's a day to appreciate anyone — and everyone — you love, including friends, family and especially yourself. After all, those three little words go a long way.

Stop ignoring the problem

By Stephanie Ng
Contributing Writer

It has been over a week since the change to the student activities fee. I've had mixed feelings about this matter and it's taken me some time to really process the situation and formally write about it. I've felt frustration, anger and betrayal, but above all, I've felt that my voice has been ignored. Hearing this pitch for the first time, something didn't sit right with me. I could hear some of the potential positives coming out of this change, such as "more opportunities for organizations to grow" and "greater contributions to the financial hardship initiatives on campus." However, the more I allowed the proposal to sink in, the more I felt the reasons for the changes to the student activities fee were void. Under the current SGA structure, we have the capabilities to create those opportunities and achieve those goals. Some of the criticism we have received has included not looking into the budgets for off the top groups, not having plans for our $100k reserve and not having a diverse or equitable membership that is representative of the student body. We've been painted in a bad light, and I'm just asking that we at least be heard this time.

For one, I will admit, I didn't realize how Hillel was funded. To my defense, we have changed advisors three times during my four years in Student Government. Information gets lost between transitions, and our advisors have to get adjusted to their new positions. When Dean Gulati mentioned that Hillel has received $5 per student from the student activities fee for the last x number of years, it was a no-brainer that we would have to look into their budget to better serve the needs of the organization. However, we were never given the opportunity to conduct these investigations ourselves. Instead, we were stripped of this responsibility and criticized for our unwillingness to make student activity funds accessible to all students, with emphasis on the underrepresented students.

Within the past two years, Student Government has worked hard to make the funding process much more transparent and accessible to the student body. We have actively been encouraging students to access this pool of money to fund any student activity/initiatives they desire. Switching over to the SCORE form has greatly simplified how students access their fee money. The SCORE form is an online form where any individual or group can request funds that are related to any sort of student activity, which includes events, supplies for activities, conferences, etc. Through this form, we have eliminated the need for most students to come and meet with our finance committee/general assembly, which was a deterring factor for students to try to access funds.

This switch resulted in us depleting our general fund and dipping into our reserve to supplement the extra $9,000 that was spent. Under the new changes to the student activity fee, we are being told that we will be able to request additional funds if we exhaust the original budget we had requested. This new system requires that a good relationship and trust is maintained between administration and the Student Government advisor; however, as that cannot always be guaranteed, this becomes a worry in this new system.

This can simply be exhibited through the lack of Student Government input in the change to the student activity fee. Several members of Student Government were called to a meeting for the presentation of this proposal, which was only two days before the Board of Trustees meeting. This short timeline prevented us from having the opportunity to form a proper reaction to the matter. Had we been given adequate time, I would have liked to collaborate on this proposal to come up with something that both Student Government and the administration could have agreed on.

Another criticism we received was that we did not have plans for our $100k reserve. This is simply false. Throughout this academic year, we have been pushing to help replace the desks in Moyer and to help expedite the process of coin-free laundry with our reserve money. These are projects that are student priorities. One of our responsibilities as Student Government is to amplify the concerns of students and accelerate the progress in solving student problems. When we pitched the idea of funding for some of these projects, we were told that these were capital projects and that the point of the student activity fee was to fund student activities.

However, there is an inconsistency with what is considered a student activity when the college needs things to be funded. For instance, three years ago, we were asked to fund the Prevention Educator position, which was "essential for preventing sexual abuse/violence and bringing awareness to these situations." I agree that this position is essential to the college, but if it was such a vital position, the college should have budgeted for it, and it should not have come out of the student activity fee. We felt pressured to fund this position, so we did.

The biggest problem with having our reserve dissolved is that there is less weight behind our words, and less power to our actions. If students want new desks in Moyer, we as members of Student Government do not only want to voice these concerns, but also bring things to action. Although some people may disagree, college priorities do not always have to be Student Government priorities.

The whole purpose of Student Government is to be the voice of the students and to represent student concern. What students hold as their top priority does not always align with the college's view on priorities. That is our biggest role, as proponents of student voices.

Another problem I have with the SGA reserve being taken away is that this money is now meant to be put towards financial hardships. Repeatedly we have been told that we will be a part of the decisions as to where this money will go in the realm of financial hardship initiatives, but this limits who from the student body can access the funds. As someone who deals with financial hardship myself, I don't think this money will ever reach me. However, if it was in the reserve/general fund, I would more likely be affected by it through some sort of club activity or college programming. Don't get me wrong, the college has made great strides to improve equity at this school; however, should the student activity fee, which everyone pays, be funding financial hardships? I don't know the answer to that, but there needs to be a discussion as to where the money to fund financial hardship projects comes from, rather than just taking student activity fee money.

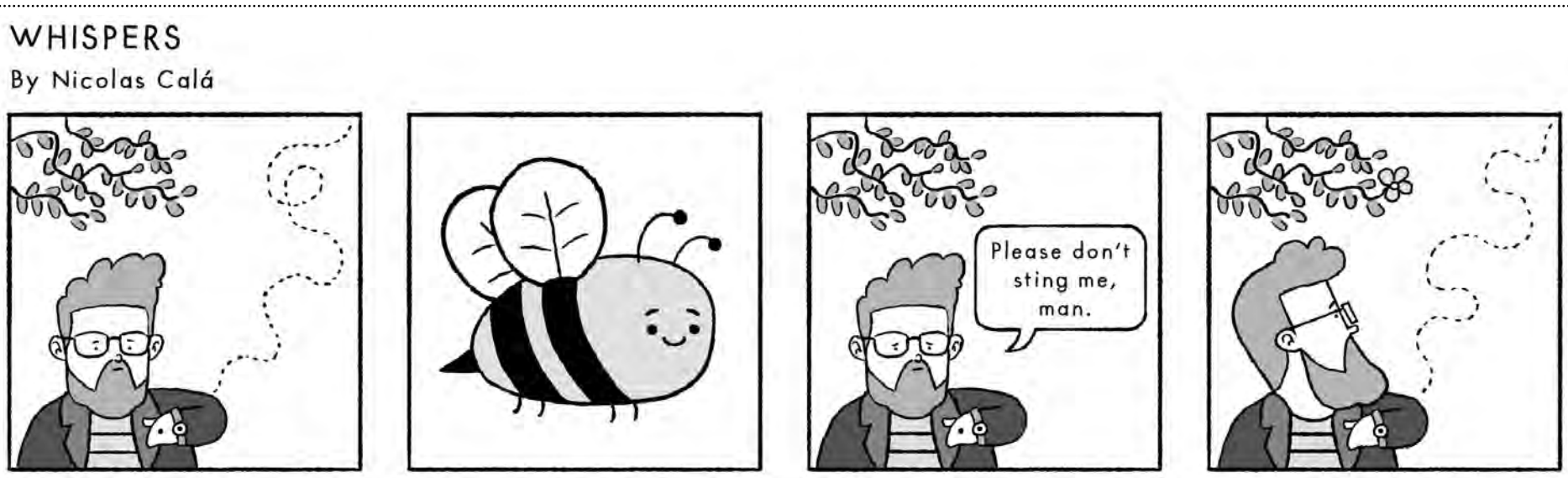
The problem isn't simply the money; it's the lack of transparency Student Government has experienced and the fact that we can no longer operate under our own autonomy.

We have also been called out for the lack of diversity in student government. I would like to call attention to the fact that the administration of this college is no more diverse than the Student Government. As a minority at this college, never once was I asked to weigh in on diversity initiatives the college was working on. Apparently, students sit on committees that weigh in on hardship initiatives and diversity initiatives. There is no clarity as to how these students are selected to sit on these committees.

As President of Student Government, I understand the struggles of underrepresented students on this campus and continuously bring up concerns and think about ways to support and include minorities. When Student Government is being criticized for not being inclusive, I take that as a personal offense. I do not feel like there are enough students being included in these conversations around initiatives that are supposed to help them. I've had many frustrations with how our school has dealt with diversity and inclusion. I was even warned by my high school guidance counselor when applying here that I would face a lack of diversity. I don't know what the answer to this problem is either, but I don't think removing the responsibility of student government to autonomously manage student activity funds is the answer.

If you've made it this far in the article, you may think that there is an irreparable clash between Student Government and administration. I want to make it clear that this is not the case! I really want this to work between us, and I really want to make sure that we are able to positively affect as many students as possible. However, when our voices are taken away from us, I refuse to stay silent. The problem isn't simply the money; it's the lack of transparency Student Government has experienced and the fact that we can no longer operate under our own autonomy. There are structural changes that the college should consider, but this change to a budget system for Student Government is being framed as the solution to many of the larger issues the college is facing. It is not clear that this proposal will solve many of the problems the college is facing, but it is clear that it will cause a loss of student autonomy and voices.

If you would like to join the conversation about this new proposal, Student Government invites you to share your voice at their Student Town Hall this Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Seegers Union Great Room.



On track for the championships

Men and women's track teams gear up for the CC championships on Feb. 29

By Jason Grant
Co-Sports Editor

In two short weeks, the men's and women's track teams will compete in the first Centennial Conference Championship meet of the season. Each year, there are two Centennial Conference Championship meets, one at the end of February when the season begins, and one in late April to round out the season.

In last year's February meet, in which all ten Centennial Conference schools competed, the women finished 6th, while the men finished 8th. However, the Mules will be carrying immense confidence into Lancaster, Pennsylvania on Feb. 29. The squad has had a fantastic season thus far heading into conference play.

"I think we have to go out there with a killer mindset and stay positive all the way through. Then, hopefully, we can expect the best."

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

As the Mules participate in several non-scoring competitions, the hope is to have all their hard work pay off in the Centennial Conference Championships on Feb. 29 - March 1.

Michael Rainone '20 has placed top two in Conference play in each of the last three years. In 2017, he placed 1st in the 4x100m outdoor and finished fifth in the same category last year. With all his conference success and experience, Rainone thinks attitude is as important as anything. "I think we have to go out there with a killer mindset and stay positive all the way through. Then, hopefully, we can expect the best," said Rainone. "I'm just trying to keep a very relaxed mindset because if you get too excited or overwhelmed about the meet, I feel like performance can definitely hinge on that."

On Jan. 31, both teams competed in New York City against 25 other Division III track and field teams. They combined for 12 top ten finishes, including seven in the jumps. Alana Noehrenberg '21 placed first in the high jump, clearing the over 5-foot barrier. She had to win in a one-on-one jump off after her and a runner from Misericordia University tied during their initial attempts. Teammate Emily Mitchell '21 was also impressive, placing 7th in the long jump. The women's track team as a whole finished in the top half at 12th.

The men's team had quite a successful meet as well. Sam Morgan '22 finished second in the 800m and is confident he can produce at the CC championships, but he is not treating it like any other competition. "I want to win. I want to win my event, the 800. For our team [the men], I think we are a top three or four team," Morgan explained. "It's just another meet, but it is more important for us teamwise."

"It's just another meet, but it is more important for us teamwise."

Fellow runner Jason Richwall '20 was equally impressive in New York, finishing third in the 3000m. These stellar performances, along with five other top-ten finishes for the men's team, put them at third place overall. They finished behind only nationally-ranked Johns Hopkins, who the Mules will meet again at the C.C. championships, and another ranked team in Mount Union.

While both teams look fresh and are eager to compete against their conference foes, they each have three meets in the runup to the event. On Feb. 14, the squad travels back to New York, looking for more success at the Fast Track National Invitational. Then the following week, they have meets on back to back days, both away. They will travel to Kutztown on Friday, Feb. 21 and then Haverford the following day. In fact, the Mules do not have a meet at Scotty Wood Stadium until Apr. 4, but Morgan isn't worried about the heavy schedule. "It's good to have a racing mentality. Continuing to race is always good."

from **Baseball** page 12

leaders and elder statesmen with no shortage of wisdom to impart, along with the fact that they are still the younger members' fellow students, could mean they are in prime position to liaise between the rest of the team and the coaching staff.

"I like to interact with a lot of our guys on an individual basis," first baseman Brittingham said. Brittingham also believes in the notion that in order to be effective in a role like this, especially because of the tight-knit nature of the players, it is important to be communicative and establish personal ties with each of his teammates. "I feel that I have a good enough relationship with every person on the roster that they feel they can come to me personally if they ever have an issue or want to discuss a problem," Brittingham continued.

While being a captain is surely exciting for each of these young men, they have their sights set on bigger things this year, especially after the disappointing Centennial Conference playoff exit that concluded last season. A significant part of their job is keeping expectations high throughout the grueling season, which often includes games played on back-to-back days, doubleheaders and long road trips on many weekends over the course of the semester.

"Every single one of us is hungry for success, and we know what it takes to get there."

Having the best possible product on the field for their last opportunity to win the Centennial Conference will be a significant incentive to do the job as effectively as they possibly can.

"Just making the conference tournament every year isn't good enough for us, and we plan on winning the whole thing this time around," Arnold remarked. He also noted that in spite of all the challenges, this team is a group that does not need any additional fodder to find motivation. "Every single one of us is hungry for success, and we know what it takes to get there. It may not be easy; in order for us to get to where we want to be, we're going to have to put in the work," Arnold stated.

Arnold, Brittingham and the other captains will lead the Muhlenberg baseball team onto the field for the first time when the Mules take on Gwynedd Mercy in Washington D.C. on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Women's basketball falls to McDaniel, but hopes are not lost

As women's basketball heads towards the conclusion of the 19-20 season, the ladies look to make final playoff push

By Jordan Fisch
Staff Writer

For Muhlenberg women's basketball, this past Saturday, Feb. 8 was Senior Day, but, unfortunately, the Lady Mules fell to the McDaniel Green Terror 64-58.

Prior to the game, Muhlenberg honored its six seniors: Emily O'Mahoney '20, Emilie Benton '20, Maggie Chau '20, Caroline Hogg '20, Madison Kirchofer '20 and Ashley Polera '20, a group that not only found success on the court, but in the classroom as well, with a combined 30 semesters on the Dean's List.

"We know that when we play well we can beat any team in the league."

Even though the team came up short, they played a great game, especially Mikaela McGarvey '22. Dropping 30 points, McGarvey became the first Mule to reach that mark in four years since Brandi Vallely '18 dropped 39 at Dickinson. Her six three-pointers were also the most in a game since Rachel Plotke '18 netted seven against Ursinus in 2018.

Their offense was on point all throughout, which will be critical in maintaining in their last three games of the season. "We shot well against McDaniel and defended fairly well," said McGarvey. "It was a tough game to lose, but we can learn and be better from the experience."

Teammate and honoree Madison Kirchofer '20 also believes their offensive game was working well throughout the loss. "I think we worked really well on the offensive end and we were able to score when we needed to," said Kirchofer. "Overall, our defense was solid, but we now know we need to emphasize hustle and boxing out until the end."

The group is coming up on one of the most important stretches of the season. With a game in hand, the Mules are at 10-11 overall and 8-8 in C.C. play, and sit in a tie in the loss column with Swarthmore for the fifth and final spot for the Centennial Conference playoffs. There is going to be a lot of pressure on this team to win its last four games, but they are ready for the challenge.

"Right now, we're in a tough spot, as we are ranked 6th; however, the teams above us are just a few wins out of reach," said the sharpshooter McGarvey. "We know that when we play well, we can beat any team in the league, and we all really want to make a run in the playoffs, so that's definitely keeping us motivated."

For Kirchofer, the keys to success rest in remaining focused on their goals. "Extreme focus on the little things, I would say. We need to remain calm and composed on the court, especially in the last quarter, because that's usually our downfall," the veteran said. "If we play a full forty minutes like we know we can, we should have success," she added.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Mikaela McGarvey '22 entered the record books with her 30 point performance against McDaniel on Feb. 8.

The ultimate goal is obvious: to secure a playoff spot. McGarvey thinks that in order for that to happen, there needs to be more consistency. "In the last games of our season, we need to be consistent and focused in order to beat these teams and secure a playoff spot, especially in the second half of close games."

Both McGarvey and Kirchofer agree that steady second-half play will result in the desired outcome.

Kirchofer and the rest of the seniors, however, have an extra fire under them, as this will be their last season, and they want to go out with a bang. "As a senior, this is do or die. We need to give everything we've got, or else it's all going to be over. That is really pushing us and motivating us because it is our last year and our legacy. We don't want this to be the end, and that is really motivating us," Kirchofer detailed.

This team is ready to go and they will be bringing an intense mindset into their next game versus Haverford on Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

*All stats as of printing.

Muhlenberg wrestling completes 1st place conference finish

Preparation for Conference Championships begin as Mules dominate final set of opponents

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg wrestling team has finished a remarkable regular season, soundly beating their final two conference opponents, Merchant Marine and Johns Hopkins. The Mules finished atop the conference standings with a perfect 6-0 record in Conference play as well as with a remarkable regular season record of 18-4.

The wins come after falling to SUNY Brockport and Roger Williams University at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), which ended a ten-match winning streak. Scott Schaeffer '20 credits the team's preparation in the weight room and wrestling room during the week leading up to their final meet of the regular season as a key to victory. "After our rough weekend at WPI, we got back to work in the weight room and wrestling room this past week. We knew we needed a good week of practice to prepare for the upcoming weekend," Schaeffer said.

"It's just another day out on the job, so our preparation will be the same as it has been all year."

Finishing first in the regular season is an accomplishment the Mules have not achieved since 2001. During the previous decade, the Mules were consistent bottom-dwellers in the Centennial Conference. After exceeding expectations during last year's season, the Mules had their best season since 2009. With the majority of their top wrestlers returning, expectations were higher than ever for this season. The Mules once again surpassed those expectations after they were projected to finish third in the conference during the preseason. For Schaeffer, the conference-clinching wins over the weekend at his final conference dual-match reminded him about the tremendous progress the program has executed during his Muhlenberg career.

"Going 6-0 in the conference was a great way to end conference duals for the seniors," Shaeffer said. "We were projected last in the conference last year, and it feels great to prove to everyone what Muhlenberg wrestling is about. We have known for a long time how good of a team we were, but just never turned the corner. This year we are turning the corner, and going 6-0 in the conference was a great way to show it," he added.

The next challenge awaiting the Mules is the Centennial Conference Championships taking place at Memorial Hall on Saturday, Feb. 15. Last year, the Mules finished fourth at the Conference Championships finishing one point behind Merchant Marine and had three first-place finishes from Gennaro Cerminara '19, Dylan Schwartz '20 and Jimmy Fratantoni '20. Austin Sherman '20 and Josh Hickey '20 also wrestled well at the Conference Championships, finishing third and fourth respectively in their weight classes. With many returners from last year's squads, as well as the emergence of younger wrestlers, the Mules believe they can win the conference and qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

Schaeffer states that, "Our goals for the Centennial Conference Tournament remain the same as they have been all year. We came so close to the top three last year, and it made us want to win more. We were so close to proving to everyone that this Muhlenberg wrestling is different than previous years. This year, we will do that at home by winning the conference in our own gym."

While the conference championships will be the most competitive meet the Mules participate in this year, their weekly preparation will remain the same as it has been the entire season, and the Mules will treat this weekend's match in the same manner. Schaeffer exclaims, "This weekend is no different than any other weekend we have wrestled. It's just another day out on the job, so our preparation will be the same as it has been all year."

Looking to add another remarkable achievement to their mantle, the Mules will hit the mats for the Centennial Conference Championships beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Memorial Hall.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Sam Arnold '20 takes a hefty swing in 2019.

New captains of 'Berg baseball ready to step into the batter's box

The 2020 baseball season is almost here, and its new captains are more than ready to lead

By Noah Brill
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg baseball team recently named Sam Arnold '20, Billy Brittingham '20, John Serruto '20 and Matthew D'Ambrosia '20 their captains for the 2020 season. While it may look like nothing more than a letter stitched onto their jerseys, this seemingly small gesture speaks volumes about these young men, who have given the team their all throughout the duration of their time in Allentown.

"Being named captain of the baseball team really is such an honor," said infielder Arnold. "Being able to represent Muhlenberg College in this way is something that I am extremely proud of and look forward to doing these next couple of months."

However, Arnold is not letting the accolade get to his head, especially as he has yet to have a formal opportunity to lead from his new perch on the field, since the season has yet to get under way.

While the honor is a recognition of Arnold's sterling play, his humility and decorum also surely played a role in his selection. "Being a member of this team for the last three years has been so rewarding, and I'm grateful that it culminated in my being named a captain," Arnold explained. "Obviously, I was excited and proud when I heard the news, but it doesn't mean anything until I help my teammates around me in a positive manner, which I look forward to doing in the future."

"Being able to represent Muhlenberg College in this way is something that I am extremely proud of and look forward to doing these next couple of months."

These players have also been chosen because of the way they exemplify what it means to be a part of a Muhlenberg athletic team and because of their natural desire to be a role model for their younger counterparts. They also have the opportunity to leave a lasting mark on the program as a whole.

"I want to provide a template of how you should go about your business as a Muhlenberg baseball player," Arnold added. "You are only going to get better if you push yourself and the people around you, and that's what I've been doing for the last three years and will continue to do ... in the future."

Additionally, the combination of the captains' status as team

see Baseball page 10

Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Feb. 15-19

Women's Tennis
Muhlenberg vs Swarthmore
Friday, Feb. 15 @ 3:00 p.m.
Swarthmore, Pa.

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Franklin & Marshall
Friday, Feb. 15 @ 7:30 p.m.
Lancaster, Pa.

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Franklin & Marshall
Saturday, Feb. 16 @ 3:00 p.m.
Memorial Hall

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Ursinus
Wednesday, Feb. 19 @ 7:30 p.m.
Collegeville, Pa.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

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VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 14
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Cartoonist Nicolas Calá '21 really SNAPPED on this one.

read more on 9

NEWS

Muhlenberg's history lecture series, "A Century of Struggle: Women's Rights Before and After Suffrage" returns and Dr. Cathleen Cahill offers a new perspective on race and the suffrage movement.

read more on 4

ARTS & CULTURE

Muhlenberg DanceSport Club hosted their first big event, Dance with the Mules, which allowed participants to learn some dance skills to impress their Valentines.

read more on 6

Courtesy of Bryan Pego on Unsplash

OP/ED

The Editorial Board sounds off on the merits and missteps of Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos' 10 billion-dollar climate change donation.

read more on 8

SPORTS

Muhlenberg fencing has a rooted history on campus and its young members today intend to ensure it lives on.

read more on 10

History in the making

Black Excellence Through the Ages honors Lehigh Valley community members.

read more on page 3

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Office of Communications

Professors Roberta Meek and Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D. pose with Meek's Civil Rights Toni Morrison award.

Where is our money going?

Town hall addresses concerns about Student Activity Fee

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

In the wake of the newest proposal regarding the Student Activity Fee and how the funds generated by it would be governed, the Student Government Association (SGA) held a town hall on Thursday, Feb. 13.

SGA President Stephanie Ng '20 opened the meeting by saying that the goal was to hear students' concerns and to start a conversation regarding the policy in addition to students "being informed so that you have the ability to form an opinion."

"First off, the Student Activity Fee is not going up," Ng said before going through the proposal sent out by Dean Gulati and explaining the individual parts to the students in attendance. The biggest change is that, moving forward, there will be a single $285 fee going directly to the College rather than being split in two between SGA and the Dean of Students Office.

Additionally, SGA's current $112,000 reserve has been taken by the College for financial hardship initiatives. Ng clarified that "the reserve has been taken away, it's gone" as of the town hall.

Some students' concerns included this reserve being seized by the College.

"I think the student activity fee is all the students' money, and I think that the students should have a say in where this money goes," Ng said.

"I think the student activity fee is all the students' money, and I think that the students should have the say in where this money goes."

SGA expressed that they have nothing against the financial hardship initiatives on campus, but, according to Campus Outreach Chair Nicholas Gregg Rubingh '20, "[Financial hardship initiatives] should be the responsibility of the College, and it shouldn't fall to the students and the student government to cover it."

This was a sentiment that other students seemed to share, nodding heads in agreement.

Ng further explained that the financial hardship initiatives are not the same as financial aid but rather include the M.U.L.E. Community Cabinet and Experiential Learning and Emergency Grants. SGA wants to determine whether these initiatives are what the student body at large wants to fund using this money.

Steve Dutton, assistant dean of students and director of student transitions, took to the mic to clarify some questions and explain the reasoning behind the change. "[Off the top groups] didn't have a lot of transparency in how that funding was being spent."

Students were quick to weigh in on the issues that seemed to boil down to concerns for transparency both from the College and the students, as well as access to funds moving forward.

"One of the biggest issues I have from this is the lack of input and information from students," said Brenden Scalea '21. "More people should have been able to voice their opinions about this issue before it came for a vote."

"One of the concerns I have is the representation of the student body on that committee. If it's just three students on the committee, then how is that supposed to represent all of campus?" Katie Chen '21 said, something other students in the audience agreed with.

Another big question that students had was what SGA's role would be moving forward if they are no longer responsible for allocating the Student Activity Fee funds.

"We have always been a student advocacy group and we will continue to do so," Ng responded.

SGA is currently working on a counterproposal based on the feedback of students and concerns about the standing proposal to take back to the Board of Trustees.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Monday, February 10

Injured Student - 10:43 p.m.
Report of injured student in Walz Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Student refused further treatment or transport.

Tuesday, February 11

Theft - 9:57 a.m.
Report of theft of book. Individual identified and spoken to.

Fraud - 6:49 p.m.
Report of fraud at the Haas College Center, investigation to continue.

Wednesday, February 12

Sick Student - 2:37 a.m.
Report of sick student in Prosser Hall. The student refused further treatment or transport.

Point of Information - 9:11 p.m.
Report of suspicious activity on Liberty Street. Individuals identified and spoken to. No further incident.

Friday, February 14

Suspicious Person - 5:58 a.m.
Report of suspicious person. Allentown Police Department also responded, individual identified and spoken to. No further incident.

Injured Student - 7:50 p.m.
Report of injured student in Brown Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Student transported to hospital by Campus Safety.

Found Property - 8:24 p.m.
Report of found debit card in Seegers Union. Unable to contact owner.

College Codes Violation - 10:15 p.m.
Report of smell of marijuana at Prosser Hall. Area checked, individual spoken to, no further incident.

Saturday, February 15

Alcohol Violation - 12:03 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation at Martin Luther Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

Dispatch Code: Point of Information - 10:25 p.m.
Report of noise complaint on N. 22nd Street. Resident spoken to. Area cleared. No further incident.

Sunday, February 16

Alcohol Violation - 12:26 a.m.
Report of alcohol violation at the Village. Muhlenberg College EMS responded. Allentown EMS responded and transported student to hospital.

Injured Student - 10:00 a.m.
Report of injured student in Prosser Hall. Muhlenberg College EMS responded, no further incident.

Found Property - 10:45 a.m.
Report of found wallet at Leh Street. Message left for owner to pick it up at Campus Safety.

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Black Excellence Through the Ages

A celebration honoring accomplishment and triumph

By Cydney Wilson
Co-News Editor

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Office of Communications

Members of Men of Color Network from left: Jacques Lavache '22, Dermerkersal "DK" Karbah '20, Robin Chodak '22, Adonis Brooks '23, Nathaniel Wiggley '20, Mikel "Dougie" Miller '22, Zaire Carter '22 and Martenia "TC" Morris '21.

"It's called Black Excellence Through the Ages, and it's all about the way that black people have contributed to not just the United States, but to the globe, to the world," said Robin Riley-Casey, director of Multicultural Life, of the event that happened on Feb. 13 at Muhlenberg.

Black Excellence Through the Ages occurred in the Event Space, which was important to the organizers of the event. Riley-Casey says, "It's really important for Muhlenberg folk to experience this many black people in one space at one time that we normally don't get a chance to see. This many black people on this [campus] is a huge event. So I'm really happy for it to be happening right here in Seegers versus over in Miller Forum or in Empie Theatre."

Kiyaana Cox Jones, assistant director of Multicultural Life, explained that "tonight is a celebration of black excellence, a celebration of resilience, a celebration of honoring our past, paying tribute to the now; but sometimes we wait [until] the now is the past. But we're honoring now and then making a way for our future, and you all, you students, y'all are our future."

Jones added, "Black, white, Asian, Hispanic, you all are our future, and [we are] showing you all how we come together as a community to build inclusion and equity. So tonight we are celebrating the people in our community who are of African-American descent to remind them that we appreciate what you've done for us. We appreciate all of the blood, sweat and tears you put into that and then creating a legacy for those who are coming afterwards."

The event honored members of the Allentown community who exemplify Black excellence. These individuals included Steven Smith, a Muhlenberg alum who founded the Men of Color Network; Hasshan Batts, Ph.D., from Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley; Pastor Juanita Davis of Greater Shiloh Church and Muhlenberg's own Professor Roberta Meek, lecturer of Media & Communication and History.

A series of performers were also featured at the event. The performances included a mime dance performance, a dramatic interpretation performance, a performance by the Greater Shiloh Church Karar Liturgical Dance Ministry, the Muhlenberg Gospel Choir and a performance of the song "Rise Up."

Casey shared the importance of honoring those who received awards, saying, "Those contributions matter; in the arts, in the academy, certainly in music and language. But more importantly, it matters to the people who are coming to this event night. And that is our Allentonian friends, the Lehigh Valley friends, Muhlenberg College friends; it's a way to acknowledge the work and the creativity of our young people, the way to acknowledge people who have put in a lot of the energy and the time and the commitment to lift others up when things get rough. And so tonight is all about celebration."

Kelsey L. Casimir '23, junior production assistant for the event, explained the importance of the event to her, saying, "[Muhlenberg] being a PWI [Primarily White Institution], to honor black people, I feel like [it's important] to show that we also contribute to the community as well ... I feel like in order to get change on this campus, we need to inspire. What these four honorees do in their [lives] and in their service is they inspire us to be better people as well as to serve our community."

The event largely centered around honoring Meek, who recently announced she is beginning a phased retirement plan over the course of the next two years. Meek received the Civil Rights, Toni Morrison Award which was presented by Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and Africana Studies. Kucik said in her speech, "About two years ago, I visited Muhlenberg's campus for the first time. I got to spend much of my visit with a phenomenal human being named Professor Roberta Meek, and for lunch we went to the dining hall immediately. A student came up to Professor Meek and told her she missed her. Professor Meek asked how one of the student's family members was who had been ill, and the student caught her up. We walked a few more steps and the scene repeated itself about five times. I quickly realized that A) we probably were not going to eat, and B) that Professor Meek knew so many details about these students' lives; they confided in her because they knew she cared, and they trusted her. In that moment, I knew that I wanted to know Professor Roberta Meek and learn how to be the type of educator students trust with not only their education, but also the more difficult details of their worlds. I wanted to be like her."

"It is crucial that as we work to understand the oppression that has caused Black pain, we also celebrate Black joy — that as we try to prevent widespread, premature and violent Black death, we celebrate the beauty of Black life."

Riley-Casey gave the closing remarks for the event, adding to the appraisal of Meek by saying, "She's one of the few people who can go toe-to-toe with me. Roberta Meek is the professor students rate outstanding. She has advised hundreds of students and two student organizations: the Black Students Association and the Emerging Leaders. Her door is always open to hear students' stories of uncertainty, triumphs and laughter. She co-created Muhlenberg College's first civil rights alternative spring break immersion trip. There is so much more to Roberta Meek to include. She is an artist. She can sing and she says she can dance ... Here's to you, Roberta. Thank you for all that you do to support our students and your beloved community."

Zaire Carter '22, president of the Men of Color Network, accepted the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes Award on behalf of Steven Smith. Carter said, "This is an event that happens every single year in February. It's really a Black History celebration. And I love that it's not just for the campus, it's for everyone. We get people from outside, within the Allentown community, I'm guessing even larger than that ... I think it's something that I love that Muhlenberg does every single year. It's just a great place for the community ... Because, you know, so many black and brown marginalized bodies on this campus feel that their voice can't be heard and that they don't have events that they can all go out to. But this is one of those events that every single year, without a doubt, you can show up and show out to."

Kucik added, "The Black Excellence event was important for a multitude of reasons. It is always important to highlight the struggles that Black populations have been through — the violence that has been leveled against them and the trauma they have been forced to endure, but it is also important to emphasize the resilience of Black communities in the face of that violence and that trauma. It is crucial that as we work to understand the oppression that has caused Black pain, we also celebrate Black joy — that as we try to prevent widespread, premature and violent Black death, we celebrate the beauty of Black life. Events such as Muhlenberg's Black Excellence are a beautiful way to honor the laughter and triumph that is a central part of Black existence and to celebrate the work of people in our community who have done so much to make our lives richer and fuller."

Infiltrating the mystery surrounding border detention centers

Film screening depicts horrors at the border

By Corinne Battistelli
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m., all appeared calm in Trumbower. Upon opening the door to room 130, the volume level of voices immediately betrayed how full the room was. People across the campus community had gathered to watch a screening of *The Infiltrators* by Alex Rivera. Rivera is a documentary filmmaker who has been focusing on the border between the United States and Mexico for around two decades. His work ties into the Center for Ethics' theme, Borders, Nationalism, Identities: The Ethics of Global Citizenship.

For Rivera, this was a collaborative effort with Cristina Ibarra. For two years, they followed the National Immigrant Youth Alliance. This group is made up of young undocumented immigrants who had stopped their own deportations and work to organize and prevent other deportations from occurring. Rivera and Ibarra reached out to the group and built the film around their actions.

Some members of the alliance essentially turned themselves in to the United States Border Patrol and ended up being detained in the Broward County Detention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The issue was that Rivera had only filmed the outside portion of the tale. He and Ibarra had to figure out how to depict a place that cannot be seen, and so they settled on staging a reenactment of what had occurred in the detention center. This form of representation felt the most organic to the filmmakers, and they imitated the same ideas that were actually used at the time of the original infiltration. The real people involved talk, but actors portray some of the events described. A voice-over was added to set the scene and provide basic coverage for the viewers.

In 2012, Claudio Rojas was taken into custody by I.C.E and sent to Broward. An Argentinian, Rojas found himself surrounded by 600 other men of various backgrounds: Chinese, Haitian, Mexican and Salvadorian men were present, among others. Rojas' son reached out to the Youth Alliance after doing some research on where to get help. One of the leaders on the outside, Mohammad, discussed the importance of what The Alliance does, including petitioning the government, which has the ability to stop deporting people. When the National Immigrant Youth Alliance takes a case, they create a profile on the person and start a petition. The purpose of the petitions are to annoy governmental and Congressional offices and provoke action.

"The immigration crisis can seem so far removed for a lot of us, but this film brought it into the light.

"I don't know why they want to send me to a place I do not know," said Mohammad in the film. He immigrated to the United States with his parents at the age of three.

In order to rescue Rojas, another Alliance member, Marco, put his own safety on the line in order to infiltrate the detention center. In the process of building a case for Rojas, the Alliance managed to build cases for other detainees as well. One man, Ishmael, was a young student like Marco, while another man, Samuel, fled Honduras due to gang warfare and has an American wife and four children.

Marco discovered that the east wing of the center was the women's wing, housing around 100 women. This led to Viri, another member of the Alliance, trying on two different occasions to infiltrate and gain access to the women. The woman Viri went in for was Maria, who was denied political asylum when she no longer felt safe in Venezuela. These are just a few of the people who were held for months or years without ever being charged for a real crime. Most couldn't see their families and feared deportation at any moment. The small wins of getting individuals out are worth the big risks that are taken. The idea behind the infiltration was disruption of the system, and the motivation for doing this kind of work lies in the love for the community.

"I thought it was extremely incredible to see these young adults taking political action and putting their [lives] at risk to help the immigrants of the detention center," said Renee Levine '22. "Also, it was extremely sad to hear the stories of the families that were separated because of the current laws regarding immigration."

After the applause that accompanied the end of the film, Rivera led a short discussion. He stated how a specific f-word — freedom — needs to be used more in the immigration tale. He also said being without papers is not a crime. If it was a crime, those who lack them would be arrested by the local police, as opposed to a highly specialized department like I.C.E.

"The immigration crisis can seem so far removed for a lot of us, but this film brought it into the light. Getting to see the mistreatment of those who came to the U.S. for a better life is shocking and helps us understand our privilege and how important it is to fight for other humans," reflected Michaela Hoenig '22.

"Who has a moral right to say you must stay there?" pondered Rivera. He stressed a responsibility to speak out in order to support those who cannot.

Who was a suffragist?

Dr. Cathleen Cahill presents second installment of history lecture series

By Becca Baitel
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Trexler Library, Muhlenberg welcomed Cathleen D. Cahill to campus to deliver a lecture titled "Who Was a Suffragist? A More Diverse View." An associate professor of History at Pennsylvania State University, Cahill is also currently working on her own book, *Authors of Federal Fathers and Mothers*.

"Who Was a Suffragist?" is the second of Muhlenberg's History Lecture series, "A Century of Struggle: Women's Rights Before and After Suffrage" to happen on campus. Assistant professor of History Jacqueline Antonovich introduced Cahill and expressed gratitude that there is a "widespread interest in these topics" at the College.

Cahill started the lecture by providing audience members with a Google search of the term "suffragist," shockingly revealing that all of the pictures that came up as a result depicted white women. With a main focus on the advances made by women of color during the suffrage movement, Cahill divided her lecture into three main parts: Part I: Our Sisters in China, Part II: The Color Line and Part III: Considering 1920. Delving into the history of women such as Mabel Ping-Hua Lee, Nina Otero-Warren and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, the lecture illuminated the fact that stories of women of color are often overlooked and left out of the historical narrative regarding the fight of gender equality. Cahill focused on the struggle to gain support for women's suffrage at the state level, and how these women, as well as many others, were impacted by the movement due to their marginalized identities.

While white women were granted the right to vote in 1920, this was not the case for many minority women. Some of the many discriminations they faced during this time was a lack of education and voting rights. Within the movement, they were forced to the back of parades or barred from marching at all. Cahill wove in the complex stories of multicultural women and experiences of non-white women in explaining these parts of history that are often left out of the history textbooks. Throughout her lecture, Cahill referred back to the 19th Amendment and its implications, with an overall theme of how 1920 did not mark a victorious year for all women.

The event was open to the public, with students and faculty both commenting on their experiences.

The students in attendance seemed to appreciate the new perspective that Cahill offered regarding race and the suffrage movement.

"Cahill's perspective about how women of color are often grouped together even though they have had different experiences was really interesting," Maryn Pryor '23 noted. "I think a lot of the time white narratives group minorities together because they're unaware of the difference of experiences between all people. I liked that she brought up stories about black, Chinese, and indigenous women and talked about all of their different perspectives."

"When the history department sat down with some of our students to conceptualize this series, we all agreed on one thing: we wanted a series that not only celebrated the centennial of the 19th amendment, but one that complicates it," Antonovich said.

"The story of the suffrage movement is usually told through the lives of women such as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul, and these women were, in fact, tremendously influential in the effort to win the vote," Antonovich said. "But focusing on just these women elides a more complicated story that often ignores the racism embedded within the mainstream movement and overlooks the tremendous work done by women of color before and after the ratification of the 19th amendment. That's why we thought it was tremendously important to bring Cahill to campus."

Cahill's presentation definitely proved insightful, as students feel compelled to carry this conversation forward.

"I felt this talk was important, because, although as Cahill mentioned she does not in any way speak for all women of color during the movement, it is a conversation starter to give everyone further information about women we were never given the privilege to learn about," said Elizabeth Katchen '23.

Melissa reph / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Dr. Cathleen Cahill, pictured above, delivers lecture.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY /ARTS & CULTURE

"I believe in kindness. Also in mischief. Also in singing, especially when singing is not necessarily prescribed."
- Mary Oliver

Elise Miwa / The Muhlenberg Weekly

The College Choir (Directed by Christopher Jackson) and Gospel Choir (Directed by Eric Thompson '10) sing traditional gospel music together in the Empie Theatre.

Culture in classical music

Music department students and faculty members unearth classical works by African American composers

By Danny Milkis
Assistant A&C Editor

In continuation of a diverse series of events in commemoration of the work of African American composers and poets, the music department hosted an engaging presentation in the CA's Empie theatre on Wednesday, Feb. 12. The event was a student-to-student conversation about the cultural significance of under-appreciated music in classical canon written by African American composers and poets.

Ted Conner, professor of music, gave a few opening remarks before handing the morning over to a group of cognitively and musically gifted students. They were divided into groups of two, where one member explained the history of a song's lyrics and the life and career of the poet behind them, and the other gave the audience insight into the language of the piece's musical structure and what that says about the correlation between the poet's words and their passions.

The first speaker was Arianna Tilley '22, a sophomore dance and theatre major who spoke about the notable African American writer Paul Dunbar. Tilley explained that Dunbar was heavily influenced by the teachings of his parents, and they were often the subject of his work. She explained that Dunbar's writing career began as early as elementary school, where he was the only student of color, and took off when he reached high school, where he joined his school newspaper and decided that he wanted to pursue a career in journalism. Though he worked as an elevator operator, he wrote in his free time, and even gained support from such a notable figure as Frederick Douglass.

Following the engaging discussion, Valentina Nazzaro '22 sang a soaring rendition of "Beside the Sea" by Florence Price. Nazzaro explained that Price was a music prodigy from a young age, beginning on her first composition at eleven years old. "Price had a clear interest in music, and decided to pursue it at the New England Conservatory of Music," Nazzaro told the crowd. "The crazy part was that she had to lie about her heritage in order to obtain the education she wanted."

The most impressive aspect of this endeavor by the Muhlenberg Music Department was the inclination towards inclusivity and a cognitive music education based on tenets of global unity.

Other presenters involved in the event floored the audience of high school students, community members and Muhlenberg faculty and students with remarkable musical abilities and fonts of passionate knowledge. Molly McCarthy '22 and Celeste Samson '22 explored Georgia Douglas Johnson, an Oberlin graduate and literary pioneer who wrote *The Heart of a Woman*, a text which gave way to H. Leslie Adams's groundbreaking song cycle, The Wider View. The song cycle covered a unique style, containing aspects of jazz and Black folk music in the composition.

Alice Banta '21 and Zaire Carter '22 continued the discussion by guiding the conversation toward an African American civil rights figure who had made his way into the limelight and left his mark on the American people as an activist and a noble martyr in the struggle for racial equality: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Carter was enthusiastic in his description of Dr. King's life and legacy, and dove deeper than what is normally deemed common knowledge about his cumulative impact. He explained that, after Dr. King earned his sociology degree, he joined the seminary, and began his journey to use Christianity to spread awareness about his culture and the position he wished his brothers and sisters would attain in a society that constitutionally accepted them. Carter ended his speech with a powerful statement:

"People say that knowledge is power, and it depends on what you do with it that defines the kind of person you will be."

Following this compelling lecture, Banta sang a gorgeous, dreamlike composition by Adolphus Hailstork. She had staff accompanist Vincent Trovato demonstrate different measures in the music for the audience in an effort to visually and aurally compare the musical motifs in Hailstork's music with the ideals of Dr. King.

Two days later, the music department hosted a similar cultural event in the Empie Theatre, this time featuring Muhlenberg's College Choir, directed by assistant professor of Music, Christopher Jackson, and the Gospel Choir, directed by Eric Thompson '10, assistant director of admissions. The two groups performed separately, performing such pieces as "To Sit and Dream", featuring text from a Langston Hughes poem, and choosing repertoire that accurately reflected the reverence that the music department has for classical composers and poets of color. At the end of the performance, the two groups sang one final piece together, a catchy gospel tune by the name of "Woke Up This Mornin'." Thompson preceded the performance by explaining that this would be a secular rendition of the piece, edited for a choir of various beliefs and backgrounds.

The most impressive aspect of this endeavor by the Muhlenberg Music Department was the inclination towards inclusivity and a cognitive music education based on tenets of global unity. It seems fitting to conclude that from the various performances, it could be deduced that the college community is more apt than ever to learn about music from beyond the famed composers of the accepted canon, and look past this miniscule subset of classical music to explore and enjoy all that the music world has to offer.

Make some (ball)room for cupid on the dance floor:
Muhlenberg DanceSport Club hosts their first big event

By Ethan Forrer
Senior Staff Writer

What could be more romantic than ballroom dancing on Valentine's Day? Well, really not that much I believe; it's pretty hard to top the bittersweet joy of waltzing to Owl City. This Valentine's Day, the new Muhlenberg DanceSport Club heated up the dancefloor with an invigorating hybrid dance event featuring member performances, dance lessons and some classic free-dancing. The night was an aptly themed affair relating the innately intimate interactions integral to ballroom dancing and the flippant focus on relationships that we associate with Valentine's Day, altogether creating a truly unique and enjoyable event.

The event rotated between three basic activities on the dance floor throughout the night. One of the rotating activities involved different members of the dance club performing a variety of dances, usually switching between partners as the song continued, allowing for attendees to see several different routines and partner dynamics compacted into a short amount of time. Regular attendees were then invited back onto the dance floor, where the members would begin teaching different basic steps and movements like the ones they had just performed so everyone could try their hand at that particular style of dance.

The president and founder of the Muhlenberg DanceSport Club Anvelyn Pi '21 lists the steps covered in this event: "Today, we learned New York, the basic box step of the waltz and also the cha-cha chasse," Pi said, "We did the merengue circle, which [is] not a competition style but a social style."

Then the dance floor was left open for people to free-dance to popular and requested songs to try out some of their new moves or just let loose for a bit. After dancing for a fair while, the floor was cleared again and attendees could refresh with the build-your-own-cupcake table and recharge as the club members performed more dances and so on, continuing to rotate activities throughout the night.

Muhlenberg DanceSport Club is the newest dance-based club here on campus, but they have already carved out a niche for themselves in the type of dance they perform and made a name for themselves on the national stage. As the name of the club suggests, the Muhlenberg DanceSport Club performs a highly competitive form of dance with a long history in the US, and this dance form has its own competition structure. While the term "ballroom" may be the easiest way to describe the partner-based dances they perform, the style of dance certainly isn't limited to the classical ballroom dancing that follows a slow, calming beat that you may think. The style of dance that they perform is a far more upbeat grouping of dance styles which includes a great variety of themes and specific dances like salsa, rumba, cha-cha, samba, jazz and many more.

Starting as a small club last semester, the Muhlenberg DanceSport Club went to a collegiate dance competition in Ohio, where the dance team was able to make it to the quarter-finals as rookies. Nora Hardee '22 and Adrianos Karachalios '23, two members of the club, performed a rumba routine that brought them to the quarter-finals of their age group.

This achievement is made even more impressive when Pi elaborates on the background behind this, as "only Adrianos had a little bit of American rhythm, but that's still different from international Latin, and Nora had no experience with international Latin," Pi said, "and there are lot of colleges competing like NYU, MIT and Harvard ... and we beat them!" This gives Muhlenberg one more thing besides the dining hall that they can hold over those schools. Their performance in the competition actually awarded them an invitation to the National Collegiate DanceSport Championships held at the University of Chicago on Mar. 28 and 29.

Pi is proud of the club's rapid development, now with a membership of almost 30 competitive and non-competitive dancers. This Valentine's Day dance program was one of hopefully many more events the Muhlenberg DanceSport Club plans to hold in order to further spread their name to interested students and provide a fun outlet for anyone who likes dancing.

If you are interested in participating in ballroom dance events or competitions or just want to learn more about this particular facet of dance culture, you can email the club directly at bergdancesport@gmail.com and follow their development on Instagram @bergdancesport. The club meets weekly on Mondays from 5-6:30 p.m. and Sundays from 10:30-12:00 p.m. With their current track record, the Muhlenberg DanceSport Club is looking to quickly find its place as a substantial dance group on campus and make a name for themselves on the national dance floor.

'Berg Fringe artist spotlight:
Cheney '20 gives the scoop on his new musical

By Arielle Moss
A&C Editor

One of the productions that will be featured in 'Berg Fringe is "sweet tooth: a musical." The musical is about Matthew or Matty, played by Owen Yingling '21, who's a 30-something-year-old and is just stuck at his job at Jenny's Ice Cream Parlor in the local mall. This job is primarily what Matthew's life revolves around because of his personal and home life growing up.

"He didn't have an opportunity to grow up beyond that. So he didn't go to college. He doesn't have a circle of friends. His friends, his whole life is centered on Jenny's," said director and writer Sean Cheney '20. "And so it's about his desire, just his life there and what he wants or what he desires more than that. How does he go about getting it, and how does he fit in? And at this point in his life, can he fit into normal society?"

One of the other characters, Christine, played by Olivia Ramsey '21, is much younger than Matthew. There is a disconnect between them, as she's his only friend, whereas he is simply someone she works with. The musical shows Matthew's attempts to fit in and to figure out what he is doing with his life. Can he do anything with his life? Matthew is given the position of "Master Scooper," which is the manager title at Jenny's, and this is the biggest highlight of his life. The question becomes: what Matthew can do with only a high school education, basically no friends, no real passions and nothing but "Master Scooper?" What's next for him?

The musical, which consists of a cast of four, also includes the characters of Rose and Tommy. Rose, who is played by Amanda Clark '22, also works at the ice cream parlor. Rose plays with Matthew's feelings of not belonging, as he reads his interactions with Rose as friendship, whereas Rose views Matthew as someone who she just sees at work. Tommy, who is played by Jacob Botelho '20, is Christine's on-again off-again boyfriend.

"sweet tooth: a musical" is unique as it is a collaboration between a faculty member and a student, Scot and Cheney, respectively.

Thematically, the musical is about the weird state of being between 22 and 30 years old. It is the first time many people are no longer in school and the time where one's peers might be moving out of their childhood homes. It's that feeling of alienation and isolation and the desire for a more meaningful connection. What happens, then, when you can't achieve that meaningful connection? Is it society's fault? Has society failed you, or is that just because of your own shortcomings?

The piece is a classic one-act musical. The original music featured in "sweet tooth" was composed by Ian Scot, lecturer in Theatre, who was inspired by the punk rock genre. The musical also includes a sequence featuring Mariah Carey songs.

"sweet tooth: a musical" is unique, as it is a collaboration between a faculty member and a student. Their collaboration began when Cheney was meeting with his advisor, and Scot happened to be in the room to talk to the advisor about something else. During this meeting, Cheney was trying to figure out what he should do during the spring semester.

"And while I was having the conversation with my advisor about, 'I don't know what I want to do next semester,' [I told him] 'I'm not sure.' My advisor said, 'You should try to find a Fringe piece to direct.' And Ian said, 'Oh, I've got this musical I'm working on if you want to direct that.' And so he told me about the musical," said Cheney.

Scot came up with the original idea and the music, and he showed Cheney the script, which was about 50 to 60 percent done, with most of it just having descriptions of what is supposed to happen during the scenes, leaving Cheney to fill in the blanks, such as the dialogue. As Cheney worked on the dialogue and Scot worked on the songs, they would meet together to discuss what needed to be fixed or what wasn't working.

"So by the end of it [the original writing process], when I was originally signed on as director, by now, like, 90 percent of the words and the actual script like spoken dialogue are mine, so I sort of got bumped up to 'book by Sean Cheney,' too," said Cheney.

Arielle Moss / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Sean Cheney '20 divulges how he became a writer and director for "sweet tooth: a musical."

Although there is singing during the musical, there are also interludes of Matthew talking to his therapist spoken in a distorted style.

"There's some singing in it, but a lot of it is mainly spoken with vocal effects out of them, vocoder, echo, stuff like that, to give it this really weird, interesting, distorted feel as [Matthew] just talks about, 'This is what's going wrong in my life,' and stuff like that," explained Cheney.

Be sure to see this mouth-watering musical on April 18.

Ahead of the inaugural 'Berg Fringe The Muhlenberg Weekly is highlighting some of the students whose shows will make up the festival. 'Berg Fringe will take place throughout campus from April 17-19, 2020.

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THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Money doesn't grow on trees

According to an Instagram post from Feb. 17, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos is set to kick-start a brand-new climate project, the Bezos Earth Fund, with a 10 billion dollar donation from — you guessed it — Bezos himself.

"I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change on this planet we all share," said Bezos' Instagram caption. "We can save Earth. It's going to take collective action from big companies, small companies, nation-states, global organizations, and individuals."

The message? Admirable. Donating such an astronomical sum of money towards the cause of climate change means that Bezos is setting an example for other industry executives, perhaps putting into motion the larger institutional change that must take place within the world's massive companies in order to slow the process of climate change.

According to NASA's Global Climate Change website, the average temperature of the earth has increased by 1.9 degrees Fahrenheit since 1880, and Conservation International notes that the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere hit 408 parts per million in 2018, the highest they've been since three million years ago. 2018 also saw the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) craft a report on how the world might keep its global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius, or about 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit, claiming that "many of the adverse impacts of climate change will come at the 1.5°C mark." If business continues as usual, though, this threshold will be reached anytime between 10 and 22 years from now.

So, yes, Mr. Bezos — climate change is a worthy cause. It's just a bit difficult to trust your commitment to the climate cause when Amazon only openly promised to do better for the environment by, for example, reducing its net carbon production to zero by 2040, around five months after over 8,000 Amazon employees petitioned you to make a change last April. Even the new Amazon Climate Pledge does not meet the petition's demands for zero overall emissions; by promising to reduce net emissions instead, the petition claims, the company can "continue to pollute."

Whilst the company's impact on the external world might be offset by its supposed newfound fervor for climate activism, the internal world of Amazon continues to literally run workers off their feet. An article in The Atlantic last updated in December 2019 documented the case of one worker, Candice Dixon, who sustained significant back injuries that put her out of a job just two months after she began working at the Eastvale, California Amazon workhouse. According to the doctor Dixon saw, all of her injuries were work-related. Another worker, Emily Guendelsberger, wrote of her painful experience working for Amazon in her book *On the Clock: What Low-Wage Work Did to Me and How It Drives America Insane*; in it, she recounts the fact that she needed to buy pain pills from an on-site vending machine after just a few days working at an Amazon warehouse and was given assistance by a fellow worker who claimed she needed "at least four pain meds to get through the day."

Jeff Bezos's net worth is somewhere around 130 billion dollars. No one knows the true magnitude of his wealth, and though the 10 billion dollar donation to climate change is certainly a step, it doesn't say much when Bezos's overall riches and his company's history with worker mistreatment are taken into account. The "Bezos Earth Fund," too, is a self-made charity. Bezos, here, is essentially beholden only to himself, and the money will be committed to whatever causes he deems worthy. For a man who donated 7.7% of his wealth to his own climate change efforts and spent another 0.13% — $165 million — on the most expensive mansion in Los Angeles, it shouldn't be a challenge to treat Amazon workers humanely, even at the cost of a fraction of the profit Bezos is consistently generating.

GRAPHIC OPINIONS

Legend - wait for it - ary

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

When they first started up, I avidly watched the DC TV shows on The CW, wanting to see which characters would show up next. After a while, I got annoyed with the shows and how the characters that I adored and was actively watching for were the comic characters in name only. Eventually, I gave up watching. I would go back to see the crossovers, since they normally replicated a fairly major event in the comics, but that was really it. When asked, I'd come to honestly say, "The only one I actually liked anymore was *Legends*."

Derek Hoffmann / flickr

Actor Matt Ryan, who plays Constantine in *Legends of Tomorrow*, panels at San Diego Comic Con 2014.

So, a few weeks ago, the annual crossover came and went using the famous storyline *Crisis on Infinite Earths*, and I'll save you from my opinions on it because, really, it'd just be getting into the weeds of decades worth of comic canon getting thrown out the window by The CW. Again.

However, I found myself extremely entertained by the *Legends* characters and especially John Constantine as played by Matt Ryan seeming to become a permanent feature of the CW-verse. So, I decided to pick up the show again, remembering that when I'd stopped the character had joined the cast (after a failed first season of his own show on NBC) for the season's overarching plot.

There are just enough nods to the source material to keep even me happy.

Some quick info about the show: originally just another spin-off of *Arrow* and *The Flash, Legends of Tomorrow* featured an ensemble cast of minor characters, both heroes, villains and those who found themselves somewhere in between, from the other shows who had been recruited to help save the timeline. The first season was mainly just misadventures in space-time with a *Doctor Who* vibe further helped by Arthur Darvill (literally) at the helm (of the timeship) as Captain Rip Hunter.

As the show progressed, though, it leaned further into the weirdness of its comic book source material and grew into something really unique and enjoyable. Now, the Legends don't exist in the comics — not just the team as a whole or the plot of their adventures, but many of the current cast of characters themselves. And yet, it's the best comic book show currently on TV.

The plots are original and funny, saving history from all sorts of things from supervillains trying to use it for their own gains to literal demons, and there's just enough nods to the source material to keep even me happy, and I think that's why I like it so much more than the others.

It's not trying to be the comics, not at all, but when it uses characters whom I know and love — like Constantine or Captain Cold or Commander Steel — it acknowledges their origins and asserts how in the circumstances presented this is indeed how they'd act. The nods to Justice Society of America storylines or Hellblazer in the newer seasons are just that: nods done with respect for the characters and the source.

Yes, Beebo is ridiculous and absurd. Yes, the team as a whole is superbly overpowered and yet incompetent. But, it does wonders for representation, brilliantly presents the found family trope and the characters' growth is organic and believable, even those who are only around for roughly a season like Hawkgirl or Wally West.

The previous four seasons are on Netflix, and the first few episodes of the newest season are currently available for free on The CW's website. If you need something to watch in between midterm studying or over spring break, I highly recommend giving *Legends of Tomorrow* a chance, if only for seeing how close they manage to make it look like Constantine really is a chain-smoking warlock within the TV standards that prevent him from actually taking a drag on a cigarette.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

Sustainable trends
Or are they?

By Joely Feder
Contributing Writer

Muhlenberg students wear some flashy brands, and in this article, I'll be discussing the sustainability and eco-friendliness of four of the biggest ones I see here on campus: Fjallraven Kanken backpacks, Doc Marten boots, Hydroflask water bottles and Canada Goose Jackets. I'll also be rating each brand on its eco-friendliness. The traits I see as eco-friendly or sustainable are: being totally vegan, being made of recycled material, recycling their own material, having regulations on things like dyes, greenhouse gases and other dangerous chemicals and things of that sort. If companies don't have these things and in fact create waste, do not regulate chemicals and dyes and use animal products in their production, then they will be getting a lower score.

Fjallraven Kanken backpack:

I would rate this product high in the eco-friendly category. These backpacks are cruelty-free and vegan. The company itself produces clothing, and does use wool and down (so not the whole company is vegan), but the backpack itself is made of vinyl. Moreover, one of their newer products, the Re-Kanken, is a backpack made of 100% recycled plastic water bottles. Fjallraven is also committed to using alternatives to fluorocarbon impregnation, a common practice used in producing vinyl/hardshell backpacks because it creates a material that takes a long time to degrade in nature and has been linked to causing cancer.

Rating: 9/10

Doc Martens:

Before I begin, I have to point out that these boots are in fact made of leather. So, the fact that the main part of the shoe comes directly from an animal immediately makes me see this brand as more environmentally harmful than friendly. Not only this, but Doctor Martens is also quite secretive about where and how it acquires the leather it uses to make their shoes.

Besides this, this company has failed to regulate things like greenhouse gases and energy use. They have also failed to reduce their use of hazardous chemicals in their production process, and overall does barely anything to even try to be sustainable. The only good thing here is that they use recyclable shipping material. Woohoo.

Rating: 1/10

@NOZOMIIQEL / FLICKR

Hydroflask:

Hydroflasks have definitely been growing in popularity for the last few years, but the whole VSCO girl thing really made everyone know about them. Not just this, but the idea of a reusable water bottle has been around for centuries, so the Hydroflask is not doing anything revolutionary. However, Hydroflasks are made out of 100% recyclable stainless steel, and just their existence reduces the use of plastic water bottles.

Rating: 9/10

Canada Goose Jacket:

I'm gonna keep it real: the production of these jackets includes major animal abuse and cruelty, and I would not recommend anyone purchase one. Based on this fact alone, Canada Goose jackets are not sustainable, because instead of using material that can regenerate or be grown, the jacket uses products from animals.

The hoods of the Canada Goose jacket are made of real coyote fur. How do they obtain this? Hunters kill the coyote by shooting it in the head. But, that's not it. The other animal is in the company's name — the jackets are also stuffed with real goose feathers. And ... you guessed it, hunters also kill the geese to obtain the feathers.

Rating: 0/10

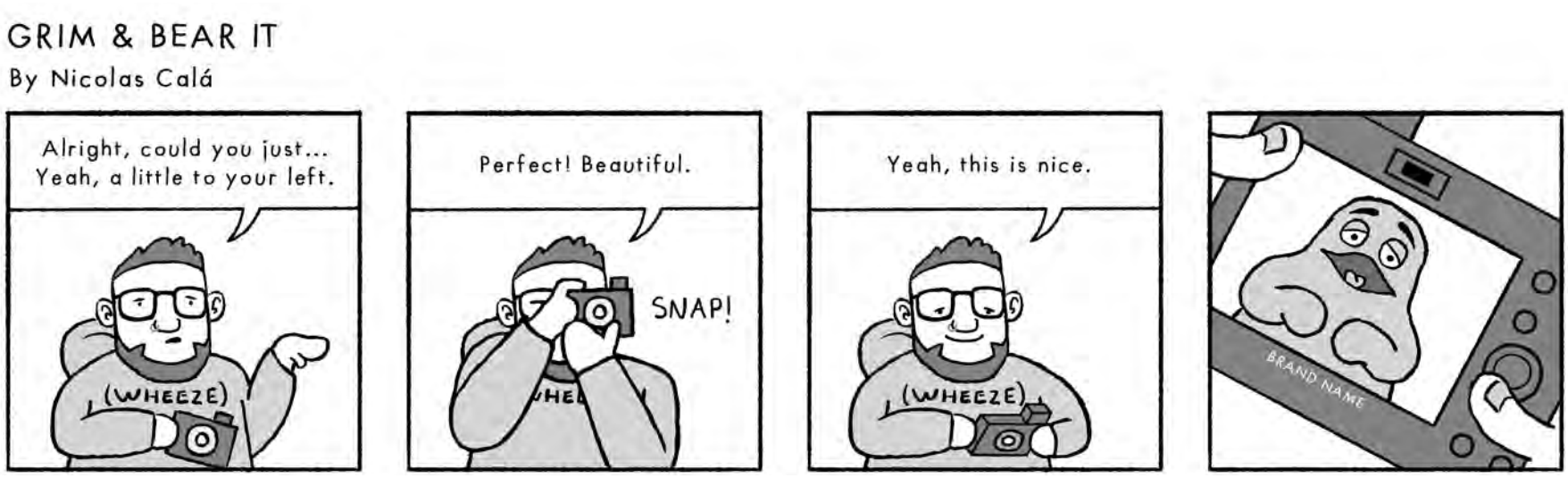
הסופרמרקט מיוחד

By Tzofiya Goldman
Contributing Writer

ללכת לסופרמרקט עם אמא תמיד היה אחד הפעילויות האהובות עליי. זה היה הזמן היחיד להיות לבד עם אמא מפני שבבית היא תמיד אסוקה בעבודה ובלדאג לחמישה אחים האחרים שלי. ללכת איתה לסופר הפך לשיגרת לילה שלי.בסוף העובדים שם הכירו אותנו בתור האמא הלבנה היהודיה עם הילדה השחורה שבאו כל פעם שעה לפני סגירה לקנות את כל הסופר. היה לנו כיף לצחוק על המבטים שאנשים נותנים לנו שהם רואים אמא לבנה אם ילדה שחורה. צחקנו גם על חוסר האוכל הכשר הרגיל, וגם עד כמה יקר זה היה בהשוואה להאוכל הלא כשר . בדרך לקופה אנחנו דוחפים את העגלה בתורות. הזיכרונות האלו יקרים לי במיוחד עכשיו שאני בלי המשפחה בקולג'. למרות שזה משהו פשוט, בשבילי זה הכל.

See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

speaking your language.



En-garde!

First arriving in 1954, Muhlenberg fencing has a deeply rooted and significant history

By Alex Blum
Co-Sports Editor

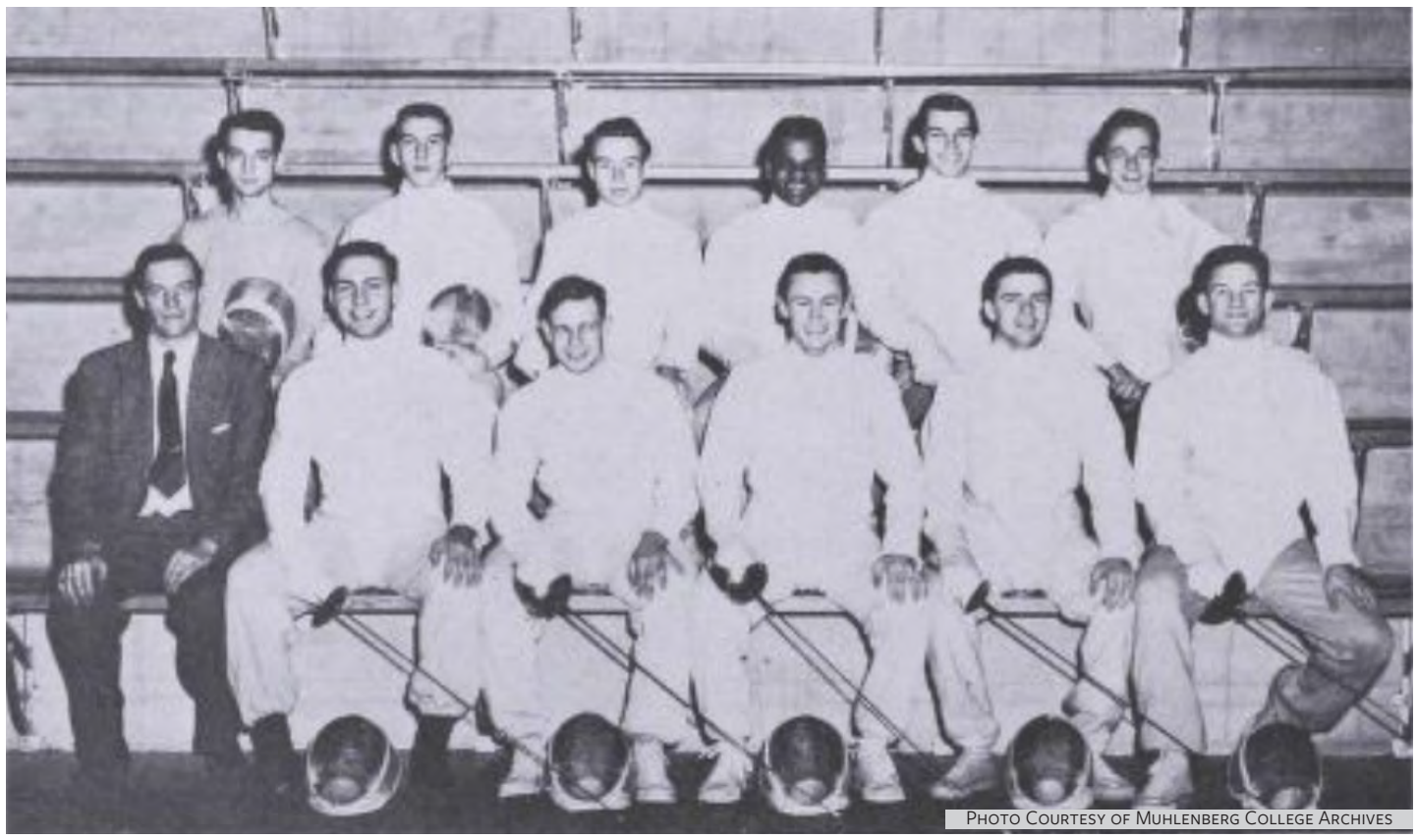


Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Archives

1954 marked the inauguration of Muhlenberg fencing managed by Dr. Andrew Erskine.

It may not be the first sport you think of, but here at Muhlenberg College, the art of competitive fencing has quite a rich history. Over their years as a club sport, they have had their fair share of ups and downs. From almost being eliminated from the entirety of Muhlenberg's collegiate sports, to being a full-time competitive club on campus.

Muhlenberg fencing got its start way back in 1954 and began as a young and ambitious intercollegiate sport. Comprised of 11 freshmen and sophomores who had never fenced prior to entering 'Berg, the group was led and trained by Dr. Andrew "Andy" Erskine, professor of English, speech and drama. A native of Philadelphia, Dr. Erskine managed to teach and coach Muhlenberg fencing for a remarkable 36 years. While he and the Mules may not have had their first win as a team until their second year of competition with a 16-11 victory over the Stallion Fencing Club of Long Island, the group remained enthusiastic and committed. Even though they had nine returning swordsmen from the previous year, they were still quite inexperienced, and this win was exactly what they needed.

"Even though we don't compete at the collegiate level, that doesn't make the sport any less rewarding."

Even with that single victory during the '54-'55 season, the Mules would eventually reach the M.A.S.C.A.C. (Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference) fencing tournament hosted by Johns Hopkins. Ultimately, they would come away with the fifth place prize. From their inaugural season to their second, Muhlenberg fencing certainly took tremendous leaps in the right direction.

In their fourth year of intercollegiate play, in 1956-57, the men failed to accumulate a single win. These struggles would come to a head over twenty years later in 1980, when the Board of Trustees considered not only the elimination of lacrosse as an intercollegiate sport, but also the elimination of fencing. Speaking on behalf of the administration, Dr. Harold Stenger, former dean and vice president of Muhlenberg College, noted that the matter of elimination had actually been discussed three years earlier. He cited that money was not the issue; rather, the concern was "mounting teams reflective of Muhlenberg College." In essence, he was referring to the team's lack of a respectable record. For Stenger, it was also important to "do the sport right" and not present a lackluster effort. Inadequate staffing or a lack of coaches was also a reason for discontinuation, according to Dean Stenger.

After getting wind of this potential elimination, the students of Muhlenberg College rallied behind both the fencing and lacrosse teams to retain them as official collegiate sports. This student dissatisfaction led to a petition that was signed by over one thousand students. In addition to the petition, there was a clear boost in participation and success of both programs. Ultimately, both teams remained on campus and continued to see growth and success.

Today, although it may not be an official inter-collegiate sport, the fencing club is alive and thriving, with 10-12 members that attend practices on a regular basis in the racquetball courts of Memorial Hall.

During a regular practice day, the team "always [starts] out by doing a warm up and some stretches because fencing is a sport based off of explosive speed, so it can be very easy to pull a muscle," according to Noah Katz '23, the fencing club's current president.

Fortunately for Katz and the rest of the group, practices are made possible because of the gear and equipment that has been preserved through the years. "Fencing is a sport that requires lots of equipment. You need a jacket, mask, glove, blade and lamé, and we are very lucky that the school has a large amount of this gear that has grown over many years so no one is required to buy or bring their own gear. We even have an electronic scoring system like the ones used at the Olympic level," Katz said.

Fencing is a sport based off of explosive speed.

Like the young men that gave fencing its start at Muhlenberg back in 1954, Katz is passionate about developing his skills. However, unlike those ambitious men, Katz is no stranger to the sport. "I had fenced for about 4 years, but I stopped at the start of high school. I am very glad that I have been able to take up the sword once more in college. A few of our members, too, including our team captain Eli Coopersmith ['23], have some years of prior experience before coming to Muhlenberg." Having this backbone of fencing experience, especially among Muhlenberg's freshman class, is crucial for the longevity of the club.

While the fencing club remains a rather small organization on campus, Katz explained that his vision for the team is to eventually "compete against other schools who have non-intercollegiate clubs." Before making that move, however, it is important to Katz that everyone feels confident in their abilities and skills.

And while they may only be a club for now, for Katz, that does not ruin the excitement and exhilaration of the sport. "Even though we don't compete at the collegiate level, that doesn't make the sport any less rewarding. Fencing is such a noble and exciting sport, and being able to meet every week makes me so happy. It is not a common sport, so being able to learn and take part in it is a very unique opportunity," he explained.

With a stable membership and practice schedule, the Muhlenberg fencing club surely looks destined for a bright future.

Like the Mules back in 1954, the Mules today are passionate and determined to ensure the sport's place within Muhlenberg Athletics.

from **Lacrosse** page 12

The Mules face a tough road ahead, with four out of eight conference opponents ranked in the top 20 of pre-season Division III polls. Undeterred by preseason rankings, the group seems determined to shake things up. Whittingslow expressed the excitement of their capable team as the season ramps up.

"Offensively, we did a good job capitalizing on unsettled situations and scoring in transition."

"This team knows that we can be a part of something special, as we have a close group of talented lacrosse players," Whittingslow said. "The goal is to be in the top four spots in the conference so we can have a chance to take home the Centennial Championship."

An 11-point scoring differential in the opening game of the season is a big win for Muhlenberg, but according to Hager, the team isn't letting it go to their heads. "Our mindset is to keep focused only on our next outing and not worry too much about the future of the season. We can only worry about our very next opponent."

Men's lacrosse plays their next game on Saturday, Feb. 22 at Scotty Wood Stadium against an 0-1 University of Scranton team. The Mules have plenty of time to sharpen up before facing their first in-conference competition on Mar. 25, a home game against Haverford College.

‘Berg Wrestling Takes Second at Conference Championships

With the C.C. Championships over, the focus now turns to the NCAA Championships

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg Wrestling team took second place at the Centennial Conference Championship, the program’s best finish at the tournament since their second-place finish in 2007. Austin Sherman ’20, Scott Schaeffer ‘20 and Luca Colestock ‘22 all placed first in their respective weight classes to take home their first career individual titles. Brian Jamison ‘20 finished second while Jimmy Fratantoni ‘20 and Dylan Schwartz ‘20 finished third to round out a solid overall performance for the Mules.

Just a few years ago, the Mules finished towards the bottom of the conference standings. However, over the last two years, the Mules have become one of the top programs in the Centennial Conference, as they have finished in the top half of the conference championships, including six individual first-place finishes during that span. The Mules have also become one of the top programs at the national level, as they have earned both individual national rankings as well as a national ranking as a team in the National Wrestling Coaches Individual Poll.

Fratantoni, who has been with the program for five years after receiving a medical redshirt due to an injury his freshman season, credits the coaching staff for helping to revive the program and bringing in a larger roster of wrestlers.

“Every year, the program has been lucky to have passionate coaches who strived to make the team better,” Fratantoni said. “Coach Jason McLean, Coach Guesseppe and Coach Drake have put countless hours into the program and it’s finally starting to show. Entering my freshman year, we had less than twenty people on the team. Now, we are pushing over thirty kids and continuing to grow. I am excited for what Muhlenberg wrestling has to bring to the table in the next couple years.”

Sherman, who has had an excellent career since arriving at Muhlenberg, credits the hard work his teammates display in the wrestling room as a major motivating factor for the Mules to improve each year both in conference and nationally. “It’s been an amazing four years being able to help rebuild Muhlenberg Wrestling. We’re one of the best programs in the country, not just the conference, and having guys in our practice room like [Dylan] Schwartz, Frat [Fratantoni], Luca [Colestock], J-mo [Jamison], Scott [Schaeffer] and [Josh] Hickey forces me to jump levels.”

While the Mules are proud of their accomplishments up to this point, they now turn their focus to the Mideast Regionals at Ithaca College taking place from Feb. 29 - Mar. 1. Last year, the Mules finished in sixth place at the Mideast Regionals, their best finish since the NCAA revived the regional format for the 2012-2013 season. They also had six wrestlers make the podium at regionals, and five of those wrestlers are returners hoping to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

The Mules wrapped up the Centennial Conference Championships this past Saturday with an impressive second-place finish.

Sherman has shifted his focus solely to the upcoming national tournaments and believes that both he and his teammates will continue their dominance in Ithaca. “I’ve always held myself to the highest standard possible, so I’m not proud yet. I’m happy for this program and the role I’ve gotten to play in it, but we have regionals in a few weeks, and the NCAA’s not too long after that. With any luck, my next contribution to The Muhlenberg Weekly will be after my teammates and I make some noise on the national scene. I believe in our guys,” Sherman said.

This coming week, the Mules host the Northeast/Mideast Futures Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 23, where wrestlers who won’t compete in the Mideast Regionals will wrestle for the final time this season. The following week, the Mules will travel to Ithaca and compete at the Mideast Regionals, hoping to continue their domination at the national level and attempt to qualify for the NCAA Championships.

Women’s tennis team looks to bounce back

After a 9-0 loss to Swarthmore, the Mules seek to build more team chemistry and confidence

By Jordan Fisch
Senior Staff Writer

The Women’s tennis team was shut out 9-0 on Saturday in a match they will look to bounce back from. They came up against a nationally-ranked Swarthmore squad who, earlier in the morning, also dispatched Immaculata University 9-0. With the departure of two seniors last year, the team added four new players, leading the team to create some chemistry. However, they seem to be taking to the change quite well.

“The team chemistry has been a good and welcome change. We got a great recruit in Caroline Maglaras [‘23], and she has the potential to help put this team on the map,” said Caroline Armknecht ‘22. “Bringing on more girls has been great to give us a higher team energy and a larger support system overall.”

These teammates have been great motivates to each other so far as their season takes off. Also, the women seem to be feeding off of each other’s energy. “Caroline is my doubles partner, and her energy is a great change for me, as it forces me to get my head in the game and work harder to be a great partner because she gives her 100 percent 24/7,” said Armknecht.

So far, the program is in the midst of a rebuild, as they have had to add some new pieces. While that can be annoying to deal with, the team has embraced the process. “This season is a big building season for us. We have a fairly young team and only anticipate losing our number six next year. I hope that we can pull out a few more wins than last year, but I have a bigger hope that we can work hard on improving the players that we already have,” said Armknecht. “This team has a huge amount of potential, and if we put in the work at practice and throughout the season to hone in our skills, I could see next year being great.”

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

Caroline Armknecht ‘22 is confident that hard work will produce results for the Lady Mules into their game.

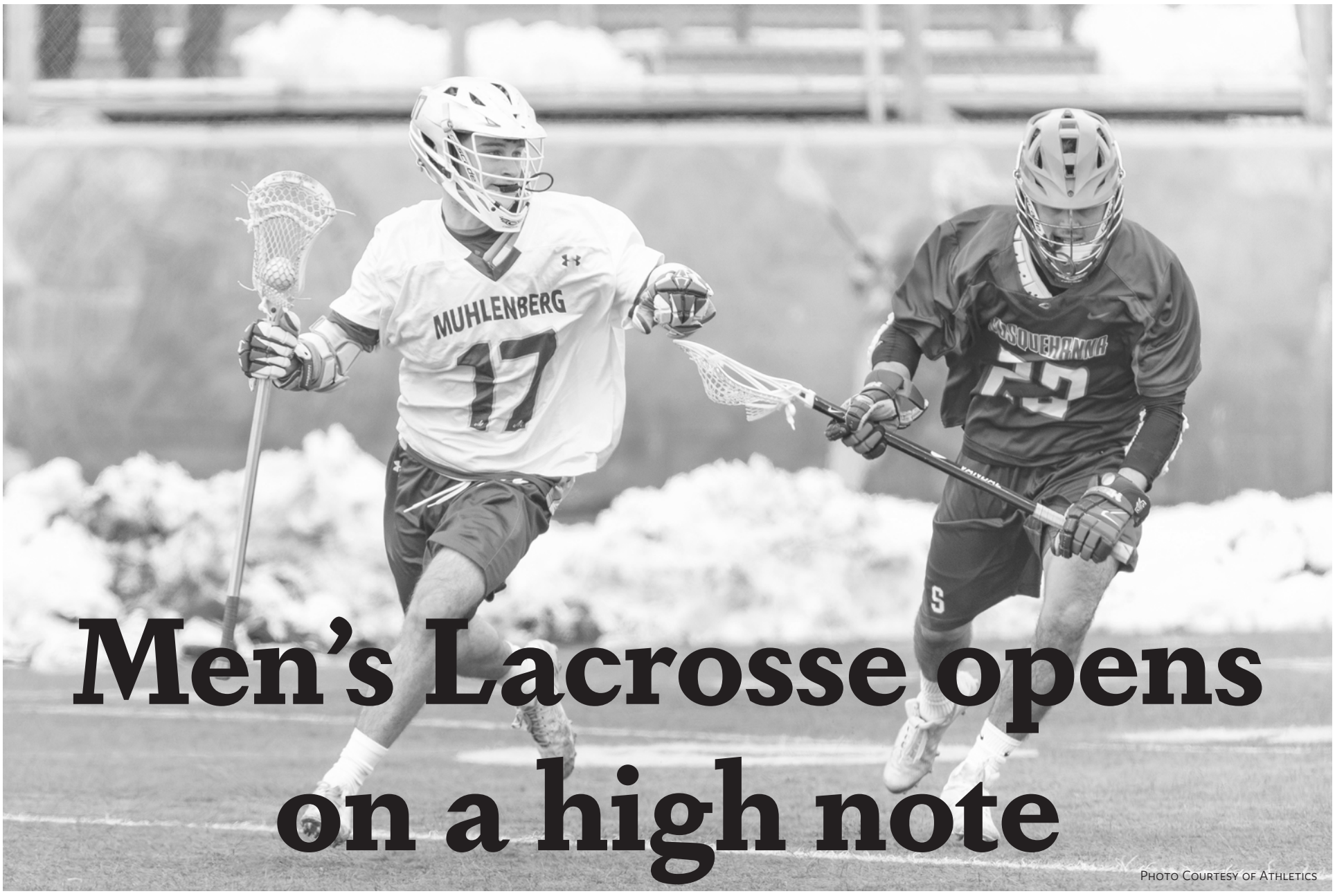
Rebuilds can typically be a frustrating period for an athlete, but the team has been handling the situation like professionals and with great attitudes towards the game and the team. This is surely a positive sign for their future.

The team has had to deal with lots of adversity at the beginning of the season, since the tennis coach has been forced to spend time with both the men’s and women’s teams with no full-time assistant. “This season, our coaching staff was supposed to get an assistant coach, as tennis is currently the only team without an assistant and the only sport with one full time coach for both the men and the women,” said Armknecht. “The assistant position fell through, which is truly unfortunate; however, we do have a volunteer assistant that comes to practice a few times a week. The small coaching staff we have makes it difficult for us to get progress in at practice and stay motivated, because one coach can only watch so many players and offer helpful critiques.”

Even with the small staff, Coach Toedter has been spreading encouragement to the players. “Coach Toedter sees that we could be a great team as well, and I believe that if the players and Coach Toedter give our 100% in practice with drills, productive match play and one-on-one work, then the spirits of the players and success of this season will grow. If Coach Toedter gives his all to try and make us better, then that will motivate us to give our all too,” Armknecht said.

Even with the adversity and new faces, the team is taking their games and practices in stride and are focusing on the little things. “Practice makes perfect. The more we all play together and practice as doubles teams in match situations, the more we can work on building team chemistry,” Armknecht added.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS



Men's Lacrosse opens on a high note

Photo Courtesy of Athletics

The Mules came away with a big opening day against Fairleigh Dickinson with a score of 15-4.

The Mules build momentum with big win in season opener

By Declan Walkush
Contributing Writer

In their season opener on Feb. 15, Muhlenberg men's lacrosse posted a dominant 15-4 win over Fairleigh Dickinson University at their campus in Madison, N.J. The Mules accrued a 5-2 lead in the first quarter and didn't look back, scoring three, three and four goals in the next three quarters respectively, while shutting out the FDU Knights in the middle two quarters.

Saturday's game seemed to be won and lost in the face-off X with Muhlenberg coming away with 15 of 22 face-offs, 11 of which were posted by Matt Burke '21.

When asked about what allowed the Mules to compete so well in this early season outing, defenseman Jacob Whittingslow '20 responded, "Our defense is very strong, and we have a great goalie in Garrett Pope ['20], so we are able to limit the other team's offense pretty well."

Defenseman and captain Matt Hager '21 added, "I thought we did a great job communicating throughout the game. Typically, the first few games are tough in terms of having proper communication and clicking as a team, but I feel like our communication on Saturday was fantastic nonetheless."

"This team knows that we can be a part of something special as we have a close group of talented lacrosse players. The goal is to be in the top four spots in the conference so we can have a chance to take home the Centennial Championship."

On the offensive side, Whittingslow cited the team's proficiency in transition for creating scoring opportunities. "Offensively, we did a good job capitalizing on unsettled situations and scoring in transition." The senior captain was not all praise, as he noted some adjustments the team has to make as they move into their next game. "Things we could improve upon are limiting turnovers and penalties," Whittingslow said simply.

The early season success could in part be due to the high intensity at which the Mules practice to better prepare them for in-game situations. According to Hager, the Muhlenberg coaching staff stresses the importance of intensity to maximize the team's time on the practice field. "The season can be very long and demanding, but if we're able to keep practices intense despite this, we will get the most out of the work that we're putting in," Hager said.

With a long season ahead and tough competition on the schedule, Whittingslow noted head coach Jake Plunket's emphasis on improvement. "Coach Plunket keeps communicating to us that there are always things that we can improve upon, so we just need to take it one step at a time as we attempt to be playing our best lacrosse once we get into conference play," said Whittingslow.

The 2019 squad struggled with in-conference competition posting a 3-5 Centennial Conference record; however, the 2020 team has three All-Centennial Conference selected players, and one player who received an honorable mention. With a strong team returning and a host of freshman talent, men's lacrosse looks poised to make a playoff run in 2020.

see Lacrosse page 10

Coming up this week in **SPORTS**
Feb. 22

Baseball
Muhlenberg vs Gwynedd Mercy
Saturday, Feb. 22 @ 10:00 a.m.
Washington, D.C.

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs Scranton
Saturday, Feb. 22 @ 1:00 p.m.
Scotty Wood Stadium

Women's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg
Saturday, Feb. 22 @ 1:00 p.m.
Gettysburg, Pa.

Men's Basketball
Muhlenberg vs Gettysburg
Saturday, Feb. 22 @ 3:00 p.m.
Gettysburg, Pa.

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2020
VOLUME CXLII, ISSUE 15
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It's Groundhog Day all over again for cartoonist Nicolas Calá '21.

read more on 9

Out of the shadows, into the sun

A Raisin in the Sun brings issues of identity, racism and inequality to light.

read more on 5

PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN EK

Beneatha (Nicole Morris '21) and Walter Lee Younger (Jalil Robinson '22) explore their heritage as Ruth Younger (Mercy Olajobi '21) looks on.

NEWS

Trexler Library held a Trivia Night with an Olympic theme, featuring Mark Stein from the history department as the host and students making up each team.

read more on 3

ARTS & CULTURE

The Spanish, Italian and French clubs hosted "Carnevale! ¡Carnaval! Carnival!" and made the community aware of popular culture in European countries through food, games, crafts, and music.

read more on 6

PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY STANGE

OP/ED

Melissa Reph '20 just has a couple of questions about the College's financial state...

read more on 8

SPORTS

With little funding and a lack of hours for open swim, the pool in the LSC is poorly handled, despite being used by students and faculty as an outlet for relaxation and exercise.

read more on 10

A day at the fair (in GQ)

Vendors share new foods with students

By Corinne Batistelli
Staff Writer

The General's Quarters (GQ) is located within Seegers Union, the heart of campus. On any given day, it is filled with the hustle and bustle of the Muhlenberg population. On Friday, Feb. 21, though, some of the usual tables were missing once the afternoon rolled around. While students went in and out as usual, long tables were brought out and people could be seen setting up shop. Stretching from the entrance of Seegers through GQ and into the GQ Annex, the end result was the Spring Vendor Fair.

The vendor fair featured partners that are essential in getting products from their origin point to campus. It has been said to be the "first annual" one of its kind.

Georg Holz, the coordinator of the event, explained how and why the event was organized. Holz said, "Valued vendor-partners were requested to present new products that would strengthen Dining Services' relationship with the College community, build new sales opportunities with our retail customers, help them to build their brands with college-age consumers and meet the community that we serve. In the process, we hoped that the customers would feel the appreciation that we share for their business and gather feedback for what is valuable to them."

The event featured a vast assortment of free samples, raffles and other fun stuff which was sprinkled in as one browsed. GQ was overwhelmingly crowded, as free food always captures the attention of the average college student.

"Our suppliers are so important to the success of our dining service program. Vendor partners are the source of everything we need to deliver our very best to our customers. They are a key stakeholder and the lifeblood of the flow of product from farm, dairy, orchard, mill and processor to our campus customers at Muhlenberg College," said Holz.

"I want a shopping cart," exclaimed Marissa Steiner '22 as she walked through the event. The experience felt similar to being in a grocery store. Many students grabbed a plastic bag from GQ in order to stock up on all of the snacks.

While it was not widely advertised, it would have nearly been impossible to miss the event. There were many different stands to explore, and both sweet and salty tastes could be satisfied. There was a cooler of ice cream at the doors of the Annex, and the vendor never failed to remind a student to take something before they left. Bags of chips were set up on a shelf display. One stand offered snack-size cheeses, leading to more than one student leaving with bulging pockets full of cheese.

Businesses including AFC Sushi, Pepsi, Sysco, Frito Lay, Naturally Sweet, J Ambrogi, UNFI and Strategic Natural Sales and Jack & Jill Ice Cream displayed their products at the fair.

> **"It was so fun to try so many foods, and the majority of them actually had protein."**

As one went from table to table, the vendors were more than willing to talk about what they were offering. Each individual table had flyers to check off the products that students liked. The surveys may lead to new and exciting choices in GQ in the future.

Holz added, "It was far overdue for us to introduce our trusted and loyal vendor partners to the campus community. With support from the Office of Seegers Union, we hoped that by hosting the Spring Vendor Fair, we could make that introduction and spotlight how much we rely on and appreciate our suppliers."

Reactions to the fair seemed to be largely positive, with many students expressing excitement about the event.

Emma Schwartz '21 said, "They should do the vendor fair more often. It was cool to get a bunch of free stuff."

Many students also expressed joyful feelings about the variety of options that addressed dietary restrictions.

Alexa Singman '22 said, "I liked that they asked students for their opinions, especially having the survey at the end. Also, they had a good range of options for different dietary needs. It was nice that there were a lot of vegetarian/vegan options as well as a few gluten free things."

Val Weisler '20 echoed the sentiment, saying, "It was so fun to try so many foods, and the majority of them actually had protein. I loved stocking up and really hope that some of them (especially the vegan chicken nuggets) appear in GQ."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Serving the Muhlenberg College Community since 1883

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We request that advertising material be submitted by the Monday preceding publication at 5 p.m. If materials have not been received at that time, the advertisement will not run and the advertiser is still responsible for 100% payment. We reserve the right to decline any advertisement that is misleading, inaccurate, fraudulent, or deemed generally unacceptable. This determination will be made by the Business Staff in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief. The Muhlenberg Weekly maintains a distinction between its news & editorial content and advertising. As such, advertisements will not be accepted if they imitate the general style of The Weekly, intentionally or unintentionally. Examples of this include, but are not limited to: headlines, bylines, fonts, and column-arrangements. In order to make this distinction, The Weekly also reserves the right to include the word "advertisement" on any advertisement that is deemed too native.

CAMPUS SAFETY NOTES

Courtesy of Muhlenberg College Department of Campus Safety

Tuesday, February 18

Suspicious Activity - 7:00 p.m.
Report of an individual seen taking chairs from Trumbower Hall. Investigation to continue.

Suspicious Person - 7:15 a.m.
Report of suspicious person on Chew Street, investigation to continue.

Wednesday, February 19

Found Property - 3:25 a.m.
Report of found purse at Seegers Union, item placed in lost and found locker.

Disturbance - 9:24 p.m.
Report of disturbance at Martin Luther Hall, upon arrival individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.

Friday, February 21

Sick Employee - 12:19 a.m.
Report of sick employee at Haas. MCEMS responded, the individual refused transport.

Unsecure Area - 1:05 a.m.
Report of unsecure door on Gordon Street, Campus Safety Officer secured door.

Vehicle Violation - 9:34 a.m.
Report of vehicle with excessive unpaid violations near Walz and Brown Halls. Vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer.

Vehicle Violation - 9:58 a.m.
Report of vehicle with excessive unpaid violations near Walz and Brown Halls. Vehicle booted by Campus Safety Officer.

Traffic Accident - 10:50 p.m.
Report of a minor motor vehicle accident in Prosser parking lot, no further incident.

Saturday, February 22

Found Property - 4:03 a.m.
Report of found phone in Seegers Union, unknown to whom item belongs, phone placed in lost and found locker.

Odor Investigation - 11:45 p.m.
Report of possible smell of marijuana in Walz Hall, area checked individual spoken to, no further incident.

Sunday, February 23

Trespass - 2:00 a.m.
Report of trespasser at Seegers Union, individual identified and spoken to, individual left campus with no further incident.

Disorderly Conduct - 3:02 a.m.
Report of disturbance at Prosser Hall, upon arrival individuals identified and spoken to, no further incident.

Immediately following commencement ceremonies, graduates, families, and guests are invited to attend an all-you-care-to-eat buffet luncheon in WDC.

Teams go for gold at Olympic trivia night

Teams and library staff eagerly prepare for Olympic-themed Trexler Trivia night on Feb. 19.

By Declan Walkush
Staff Writer

On any given night on Trexler Library's A-level, you'd likely see students with faces tucked into books studying diligently. On Wednesday, Feb. 19, the scene was hardly quiet. Packed into rows of tables, students sat in teams of two to six people, eager to test their knowledge against the campus-renowned Trexler Trivia night. The theme was Olympic Trivia, and the host was Mark Stein, Ph.D., associate professor of history.

Trexler Trivia was started in the spring of 2011 with the intention of making the library a place "for more than study time and books" by former systems librarian Tim Clarke. The night continues to achieve its original goal, as Trexler Trivia always brings out the eccentricities of Muhlenberg College. With team names including "Sweet Baby Ray's," "Goku Battles Debate Club" and the thematically named "Insane Usains" (a nod to Olympic champion Usain Bolt), the trivia night cultivates a fun and informal environment.

When asked about his favorite part of the event, Jason Richwall '20 answered, "I really enjoy the fun yet competitive atmosphere everyone brings to trivia night. It's a great way to celebrate knowledge in an unconventional and enjoyable way."

While the trivia certainly can get competitive, event organizer Joy LeFevre noted the library staff's emphasis on student feedback to keep the event fun and exciting, "We don't want this to be another test; we want students to have a good time. We poll students, particularly after the event, to see what they liked the most and least; what would they change; what would they like included."

The Olympic theme was present in the decorations, and somewhat in the questions, but the Trexler Trivia committee made sure to include a little something for everybody, choosing to emphasize knowledge of general trivia instead of delving too far into niche themes. "Our theme is stressed in our posters and library decorations; however, the theme content is lighter in the actual game," said LeFevre. "We do not want our theme to keep potential players away because they are not knowledgeable in that particular field."

"I really enjoy the fun yet competitive atmosphere everyone brings to trivia night. It's a great way to celebrate knowledge in an unconventional and enjoyable way."

Alison Stouffer '20, when asked for advice on how to find success on trivia night, spoke about how the wide net of trivia questions made collaboration amongst student groups much easier. She said, "A few of the members on my team, including myself, were new to trivia, so my best advice is to come in with an open mind and a good attitude. I also think it helped to have a diverse group of people across both academic and extracurricular activities to maximize the pool of knowledge."

When asked about his favorite round of Trexler Trivia, Jonah Silverman '22 responded, "My favorite section of the quiz was when we were asked to identify which sport certain phrases come from. This was my favorite round, as the word 'fartlek,' which is a Swedish word for 'speed play', was featured. As a runner myself, I am quite familiar with the term and was glad to see [that] the sport I love was represented. Also, this round taught me that 'fluffus' is a move performed in trampolining, and that fact put it over the edge as my favorite round." Trexler Trivia's emphasis on casting a wide net of questions helps every student to come away from the event with a new cache of fun facts and knowledge.

Stein is no stranger to public speaking in front of Muhlenberg students, but when asked about how the stress of hosting a large event such as Trexler Trivia compared to delivering a lecture, Stein replied, "[They're] differently stressful. With a lecture, I know what I am going to talk about and what I am going to say. It was my first time at trivia night, and I had little idea what to expect. Thankfully, the folks at the library organize the trivia contests so well that I quickly felt comfortable with how it all worked." Stein had someone to look to for advice, as his wife Sharon Albert, senior lecturer in religion studies, served as host for the fall 2019 iteration of Trexler Trivia.

For those looking ahead to next semester's trivia night, you'll have to wait a little longer before you can begin studying up on the new theme. Preparations for the fall 2020 trivia night will begin in the summer, as the 2020-21 academic year trivia committee is formed and begins to meet.

The reinvention of Marco Polo

Visiting lecturer talks historical texts and interpretation

By Skylar Long
Contributing Writer

On Thursday evening, Feb. 20, the Italian Language department held a seminar about Marco Polo. The visiting lecturer who delivered the seminar, Giuseppe Gazzola, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of European Languages, Literatures and Cultures at Stony Brook University, was a former classmate and friend of Daniel Leisawitz, Ph.D., assistant professor of Italian and director of Italian Studies at Muhlenberg College. Leisawitz first met Gazzola when he began to pursue a Ph.D. in Italian at Yale. At that time, Gazzola was further along in his studies than Leisawitz, and the latter recalls Gazzola as being kind and helpful. During Leisawitz's introduction of Gazzola, he conveyed a deep reverence for his colleague.

Gazzola spoke about who Marco Polo was, what he did and how perceptions of Marco Polo have changed over time. Gazzola admitted that he had once incorrectly examined Marco Polo and the myth surrounding him, originally through the same lens as that usually used for Christopher Columbus. Later, Gazzola went on to say that at the time of Columbus, Marco Polo was not yet a household name, despite the large role that Polo played in the Italian government. Gazzola went on to relay a bit of Polo's story and role in the Italian government and Venetian army during his life in the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries. Despite having preceded and allegedly inspired Columbus, Polo would not be recognized until the twentieth century, when interest in the late Marco Polo surged.

"I thought it was interesting how people didn't believe Marco Polo's stories for the longest time," said Emma Roppo '23, commenting on one of the topics of the lecture.

Gazzola credits Polo's eventual rise to recognition as being tied to the increased knowledge of global imperial expansion in the early twentieth century.

"I thought it was interesting how people didn't believe Marco Polo's stories for the longest time."

However, the majority of Gazzola's seminar sought to examine Marco Polo's first-hand recounts of his travels and the text that he wrote, which would later go on to inspire future endeavors. As was the message of Gazzola's lecture, not all text (specifically about Marco Polo) is reliable; therefore, it should seldom be taken for gospel. Giovanni Battista Ramusio, a close friend and fellow author whom Marco Polo met while in Genoese prison, aimed to help expand the body of texts on Marco Polo. Romusio, explained Gazzola, "wanted to reconstruct the most complete text possible with the most detail and thus [make it] more interesting to all readers, making a great effort to prove the veracity of the travels."

Gazzola expanded on this by saying that Ramusio's accounts of Polo's endeavors are not inherently false, but rather are embellished. Ramusio gives Polo an increased sense of grandeur that even Polo himself did not seek.

While it is imperative for Italian students to learn the culture and history relevant to the language and its users, the seminar was also valuable for students who don't take any Italian courses because its overarching message had very little to do with Marco Polo himself. In closing, Gazzola said, "Okay, so the story of this, why I've kept you in a room for about [...] an hour, [is] to tell you that the way in which we read a bunch of manuscripts depends on what we want to get out of them. It's not particularly new, but this is an interesting case study to see how precisely a historical tradition, be it of a single volume or the canon of a national tradition, is constructed, is considered, is interpreted and modified according to the scopes that the interpreters of the canon want to assert."

Following the seminar, Gazzola's closing remarks on the topic proved most impactful to the audience. Leisawitz dubbed the seminar "a fantastic illustration of ... how the interpretation of a text can change through the centuries according to what readers want to find in it, as opposed to what the text itself is trying to say."

The fight for students' top pick

Local college eateries participate in annual Battle of the Chefs

By Samantha Singman
Staff Writer

As the chairman in Iron Chef always says, "Allez Cuisine!" On Wednesday, Feb. 19, Muhlenberg hosted the chefs from four other colleges and universities in the Lehigh Valley: Moravian College, Lehigh University, Northampton Community College and DeSales University for the fifth annual Battle of the Chefs.

It was lights, camera, action at 4:30 p.m., when the Wood Dining Commons re-opened to transform into the set of five different movies as the chefs from each school created film-themed menus. The event was "directed" by Executive Chef Ross Wilson.

Each station in the dining hall was decorated to match a different flick. Northampton turned Chew Street Deli into Agrabah from the movie *Aladdin*, serving Tandoori chicken with white rice and masala chai brownies. Alexa Singman '22 shared, "It was the shortest line, so I decided to get in line there and try their food while I waited in line for the other stations. It wasn't my favorite, but I really enjoyed the chai flavor in the brownie."

DeSales turned Chef's Table into the movie Walk the Line, giving students BBQ beef brisket sandwiches with onion tanglers, cheese sauce, a side of cinnamon sweet potato chips and coleslaw. For dessert they had classic key lime pie bites, bourbon chocolate cherry cups and a banana foster tart.

Moravian turned what Muhlenberg knows as the Woodfire Grille into the town from *The Simpsons*. Adorned with stickers and cups serving the iconic Krusty Burger, Atomic Fries, Duff Man root beer floats and Doh-Nuts, students waited in a long line to try this food.

The line at the Grille collided with the line at Magellan's, as students were also eager to visit *The Sandlot*. Decorated with baseball lollipops and Baby Ruths, Lehigh did not hold back in creating the backdrop of a baseball field. While they had a chicken cheesesteak nicknamed "The Beast" served with what they called "Benny and the Jets," a chili lime butter corn cob lollipop, most students came to this station for the "Wendy Peffercorn," a popcorn mac and cheese, and the "Squints," a campfire s'mores bar. According to Emma Newman '20, "I sampled all the desserts, and the s'mores bar was by far my favorite."

"I voted for Lehigh because their food was the best and they were the most enthusiastic about being there."

The other side of the dining hall became *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*. Muhlenberg put out an array of sushi choices for students at both Noshery South and Mangia! Mangia!. Sushi options included BBQ brisket sushi roll, a corned beef potato knish roll and a Shawarma rice paper roll, while the rest of the sushi options included a spicy sweet potato avocado tempura roll, an avocado mango roll and a shiitake roll served with wakame salad.

Many students went from station to station with the goal of trying every meal to truly determine their favorite. One of these students was Emma Schwartz '21, who kept a list on her phone of what she thought about each meal to truly determine which chef should win the battle. "I voted for Lehigh because their food was the best, and they were the most enthusiastic about being there," said Schwartz.

While Schwartz's vote went to Lehigh, the winner was Moravian College's *The Simpsons*-themed meal with 238 votes.

"Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."

- Langston Hughes

A Raisin in the Sun shines on the mainstage

By Ethan Forrer
Senior Staff Writer

Last week's production of *A Raisin in the Sun* is without a doubt one of the best productions I have ever seen at Muhlenberg. Hard stop. No exceptions. But just saying that isn't nearly enough to do justice to this gut-wrenchingly dramatic journey of a family stuck in an worn-down apartment. Now, there is no such thing as a piece of art without some sort of context, and when it comes to *A Raisin in the Sun*, it's hard to think of another play with more significant context behind it. Director and Guest Artist Jeffery Page has truly composed a dynamically heart-stopping show that is able to evoke an oscillating cacophony of emotions over only a few hours.

"They're trying to stay hopeful throughout everything and move on and follow their dreams."

A Raisin in the Sun (1950) was a landmark play in the history of the USA. It was the first play to be produced on Broadway written by an African American woman, Lorraine Hansberry. Hansberry lived her life as a major civil-rights activist and eventually became active in the feminist and lesbian rights movements. It is said that Hansberry's childhood mirrored her most famous production. In 1937, Hansberry and her family moved into an all-white Chicago suburb. There, they were physically assaulted. They then sued and won a Supreme Court case that allowed them to stay in the neighborhood three years later. This personal tie between Hansberry and her play comes through in the level of gritty, hardline realism that makes *A Raisin in the Sun* such a striking piece. The true impact of this show was certainly not lost on Page or any of the starring cast.

The production revolved around the relationship between stand-out performers, interim assistant director of Multicultural Life division of Student Affairs Kiyaana Cox Jones as Lena Younger, or Mama, and Jalil Robinson '22 as Mama's son Walter Lee Younger. Both Jones and Robinson exuded a larger than life presence that pulled the audience into the world of the production and forced us to live in that musty old apartment right along with them. As much as the trajectory of the play relies on the actions of Mama and Walter and the intricate relationship between them, the presence of Walter's son Travis Younger, played by Messiah James Jones '30 (Cox Jones's son), raises the stakes in every interaction between Robinson and Jones to electrifying highs.

Courtesy of Ken Ek

Mercy Olajobi '21, Krystal Hall '21, and Kiyaana Cox-Jones gather in the Younger apartment.

"Music for me is the color of the frame; it is how I want to drop into this text ... curating the music in direct confrontation with the text helps to paint a picture for the audience."

The casting of this production was somewhat unique for a college show with the inclusion of Cox Jones, who is a very accomplished professional actress, producer and director, and her 12-year-old son Jones, who has already been acting for over 7 years. Jones as Travis served as an integral aspect of the production, providing occasional moments of levity with his youthful charm so the audience didn't suffocate under the intensity of some scenes and bringing just that extra level of realism where the 10-year-old character actually is a young, innocent child surrounded by adults and drudgery.

Equal credit must also be given to the star performances from the rest of the Younger family, with Nicole Morris '21 as Mama's daughter Beneatha Younger and Mercy Olajobi '21 as Ruth Younger, Walter Lee's wife. Olajobi brought a constant through-line for the audience to follow during the production, fully bringing out the constant struggle Ruth faces against monotony whilst trying to keep the family together.

Olajobi described her process in coming to terms with Ruth as working through the Younger family's "experiences and all the struggles that they've been through and how they're trying to stay hopeful throughout everything and move on and follow their dreams."

Morris as Beneatha marked a point of contrast against the casual demeanor and speech of the rest of the Younger family by always embodying the picture of a proud, African American woman in college with a dream and a self-destructive drive to get there. Morris explained the source of the seemingly endless energy she was able to expel in every action to truly entice the audience into connecting deeply with the sways of Beneatha's emotions.

"[My energy comes from] the drive to tell the story, knowing that it's an important story to tell and that people obviously aren't alive today who couldn't have told it anyway while they were alive, so being able to have the freedom to do it is the fuel I need to be the person to tell that story," Morris said.

But the main cast alone wouldn't have been enough to bring about such a full and fleshed-out environment for the events of this production, not without an equally impressive supporting cast. Each of the supporting actors were able to bring forth the background and identity of their characters, representing facets of the world outside this apartment to the audience through their brief-but-meaningful interactions with the Younger family.

Probably the most charged and controversial of all side characters in *A Raisin in the Sun* is Karl Lindner, the representative from the Clybourne Park housing development that the Youngers seek to move into, played by Ozzy Smith '22. In a production about the dreams of an African American family in the 1950s and their struggle against the dominant white society, Smith needed to embody the timid and skittish but fundamentally prejudiced representation of the current status of racism in America. Smith describes his process working through all these factors.

"This process was very intense, especially my character being something that I hope people don't agree with, but sadly, there [are] still people out there who do," said Smith.

This production couldn't have reached the dizzying heights it did without the tireless efforts and visions of director Page. The first scene of this version of *A Raisin in the Sun* could only be described as a champion of fluid directing, dynamically portraying the banter and routines of the Younger family which pulled the audience deceptively close to the lives of the characters. This production was not just a hyper-realistic sucker-punch of a show that forced the audience to bear witness to the atrocities of the past; it also possessed a wholly unique touch from Page.

At various points throughout the show, disembodied remixes of contemporary music started to play, which pushed the audience out of the world of the play and into the audience's reality whilst simultaneously pulling the world of the play into the world of the audience. Page described this choice, saying, "Music for me is the color of the frame; it is how I want to drop into this text ... curating the music in direct confrontation with the text helps to paint a picture for the audience," he continued. "I want people to engage with this text in a very contemporary way... I want people to understand how our current condition in 2020 [is] present in this script."

Carnival across the Atlantic

Second annual "Carnevale! ¡Carnaval! Carnival!" a resounding success

By Danny Milkis
Assistant A&C Editor

Cydney Wilson / The Muhlenberg Weekly

Rebecca Gelson '23 and Emily Lyons '23 paint masks to celebrate "Carnevale! ¡Carnaval! Carnival!"

For the second time in Muhlenberg's history, the Spanish Club, Italian Club and French Club came together to host "Carnevale! ¡Carnaval! Carnival!" The event was open to the entire community on Friday, Feb. 21 and featured a variety of fun and engaging culturally-derived activities. Upon entering the Seegers Great Room, one could expect to see several tables covered with decorations, each one filled with merry and intrigued students. Some were carried away with the array of available refreshments, while others preferred the social aspect and enjoyed an opportunity to connect with friends and strangers through crafts and table games.

The Weekly had the opportunity to converse with event coordinators Brooke Cohen '20, Naomi Roll '20, Lily Stange '20, Jacob Botelho '20 and Logan Meyer '21. The five student representatives spoke passionately about the event and how proud they are to be sharing these cultures on such a large scale with their peers.

"It's something we've done in past years," said Cohen, "and hopefully this will set a precedent for the future, so we can keep making this [event] happen."

Strange explained that all of the music played over the course of the event is popular in one of the three countries in question: Italy, France or Spain. Then, the group began to discuss the culinary offerings for the evening. The array of hors d'oeuvres on display was apparently inspired by the dishes that the five students had sampled while studying abroad, and they agreed that these snacks were simply too delicious to not include as a staple of "Carnevale! ¡Carnaval! Carnival!"

"All of us are pretty involved in language clubs," Roll chimed in. "We want to cultivate interest outside of language courses and understand that there is a massive cultural element only present in true experiences."

Botelho described how he and the others involved were able to connect with groups of people, organizations, communities, religious and educational institutions and businesses in each of the three countries, respectively. He went on to talk about the amazing feeling that came with sharing what he had picked up in the foreign countries with his peers as they studied overseas. Botelho even went so far as to say that his experience abroad was one that changed him for the better and made him a more knowledgeable citizen of the world. The others were quick to agree as he made this statement, giving their accounts on how the event would not have been possible without the unforgettable memories they made in Europe.

"Hopefully this will set a precedent for the future so we can keep making this [event] happen."

Cohen then steered the conversation back to the event at hand, going into more detail about how such parties with loud EDM music, games, comfort food and alcoholic beverages are quite common in Latin American countries as well, and that this is the kind of event that breaks cultural boundaries to connect people through activity, discovery and entertainment.

Meyer, on the other hand, promoted the event to the student body. He explained that people love getting involved on this campus in particular, and that this event has plenty of curb appeal, enough for passersby to take a look at what the groups have to offer. He made note of the fact that a large part of the event's draw factor was due to the low-stakes atmosphere of stopping by and taking part in the festivities.

This observation was astute, and upon looking around at the bustling, ornamented Great Room, one could see people from many different extracurricular organizations and campus identities meeting for the first time over a fun craft or a sweet treat and old friends celebrating the fact that they followed the sound of roaring music and were able to say they tried something new that day. Overall, the turnout at the event had gone above and beyond what the five co-organizers had hoped, and it seemed "Carnevale! ¡Carnaval! Carnival!" had quickly become the talk of the town.

"I had genuine fun planning [the event] with all of the thoughtful folks around me," continues Meyer, "and looking around, I can see that the attendees [got] out of this endeavor exactly what we put into it."

Once the conversation began to wind down, the small group made final remarks about the impact of their event on the school, and Botelho commented that this was indeed the event's second feature at Muhlenberg, and that this was the best one yet after learning from the trial-and-error sequence of the previous year's event.

All in all, "Carnevale! ¡Carnaval! Carnival!" proved that attention-grabbing inclusive events that cater to the young spirits of students are quite effective in drawing a large crowd of visitors, and allowing the whole campus to share in the journey of those moved by the sights and sounds of Italian, French and Spanish everyday culture.

'Berg Fringe artist spotlight:

Thomas Miller '20 juggles up some "Tomfoolery"

By Ellen Powers
Senior Staff Writer

Ahead of the inaugural 'Berg Fringe, The Muhlenberg Weekly is highlighting some of the students whose shows will make up the festival. 'Berg Fringe will take place throughout campus April 17-19, 2020.

Thomas Miller '20 is the creator and star of "Tomfoolery," a devised one-man juggling show which will be performed in the Dance Studio Theatre as part of the 'Berg Fringe Festival. In addition to his work on "Tomfoolery," Miller is a Theatre and Art History double major and a performer in the Muhlenberg Circus.

Miller got his start in juggling during his freshman year at Muhlenberg. After being rejected by the Muhlenberg Circus during his freshman year (he auditioned as a clown), he was still determined to get into circus and knew he really wanted to be a part of it. Once he realized that all of the jugglers in the ensemble were seniors who would soon be graduating, Miller decided to learn how to juggle so he could get into the Muhlenberg Circus during their spring auditions. He began learning over winter break that year. "It's the only New Year's resolution I've ever kept," Miller stated. His efforts proved successful, and he got into Circus that semester. Three years later, he is still just as passionate about juggling as when he started.

As part of the Muhlenberg Circus, which falls within the genre of contemporary circus, Miller is part of one of several creative processes. In traditional circus, a more eclectic selection of acts is present in what Miller describes as a "variety show." With contemporary circus, the process is more heavily themed. The upcoming Muhlenberg Circus show has a theme of camping. The group experiments with

see **Artist** page 7

FROM **ARTIST** PAGE 6

different ways to make the acts reflect the theme. For example, the juggling act, which Miller is helping to choreograph, involves the different jugglers building a campfire using glow rods. "For the ensemble shows, we break off into our little disciplines, and we make stuff, and then we just try to jam it together. Whether it's clean or not, we make shows and people have fun," Miller described.

"I gravitate towards story and how you tell different stories."

This ensemble-based creative process is quite different from how Miller is currently working on "Tomfoolery." The circus process is made up of a lot of improvisation and what Miller refers to as "cool or dumb," in which he or someone on the team comes up with an idea and they decide if it is "cool" and should be kept in the show or "dumb" and should be cut. They try to throw everything out there and see what sticks or resonates. If an idea does resonate, they keep moving forward with it. Miller explained that the process is all about finding the "little moments" and how they line up with the music, as well as how they fit into what has already been created.

When explaining how he started coming up with the ideas for the one-man show, Miller said, "I gravitate towards story and how you tell different stories." He changed from simply doing a trick for the sake of making a shape to wanting to say something with what and how he juggles. "That's what my goal for the show is — it doesn't have to be cut and dry or clear of what I'm trying to say, but I'm trying to use representational imagery and gesture to get this environmental feeling of 'this is about heartbreak' or 'this is about finding joy in the little things,' then making an overarching sequence of that. This is definitely the most thought-through, complicated thing that I've done, but it comes from the experimental side while also trying to figure out what the function of these experimental techniques are and how to make them legible and accessible for an audience."

Music is also a crucial part of "Tomfoolery," and Miller himself has put a lot of thought into finding the music he wants to use. "If I had to name a mixtape, this would be 'Thomas Miller,'" he joked. The set for "Tomfoolery" is an abstraction of Miller's home bedroom, and the central piece is a radio into which different mixtapes are inserted. Miller has been finding music online and getting permission from artists that he likes to use their music in the show, creating an eclectic mix of songs that he personally enjoys listening to.

The set for "Tomfoolery" is an abstraction of Miller's home bedroom, and the central piece of this set is a radio, in which different mixtapes are inserted.

When asked about what he hopes audiences get out of "Tomfoolery," Miller had a profound answer: "Something that I have been pursuing artistically over the past two years is how to represent joy on stage. From my experience as a theatre artist, I think that it is very easy to get stuck in the dramatic, in the gloom and doom. I think comedy is so much harder. This show isn't necessarily comedic, but I want people to leave it with a sense of, 'If I'm stuck somewhere, I will move past it.' Procrastination is one of the theses of the show. It's going to be a party. It's going to be fun, a little bit more than just entertainment. Let's make some beauty."

Audiences should be sure to catch "Tomfoolery" as part of the 'Berg Fringe Festival in April.

KARLY MCCLOSKEY / THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY

Thomas Miller '20 juggles in rehearsal for his Fringe piece, "Tomfoolery."

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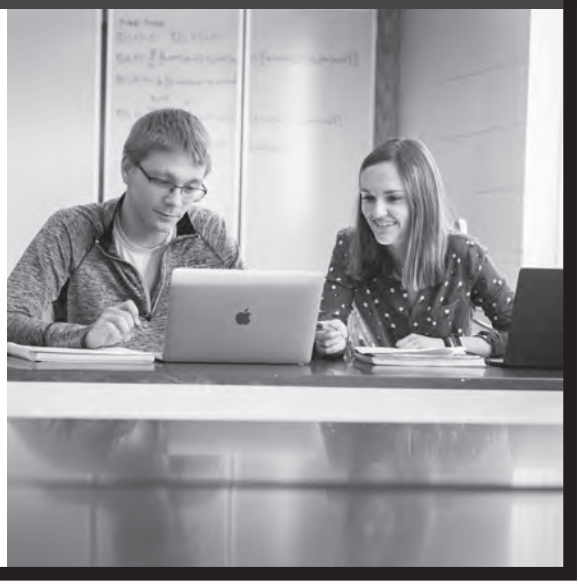


THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY
OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Editorial

Is dialogue enough?

Words do not exist in a vacuum. Inevitably, people are influenced to use or not to use some words by the societal structures in which they live. Conversely, those words that people choose to use further affect and perpetuate those same social structures. The structural effect of language, especially when it comes to biased language perpetuating stereotypes and continuing legacies of harm and dehumanization, cannot be understated.

On Feb 25., Muhlenberg College held a dialogue about biased language that was so well attended that staff had to bring in extra tables and chairs to accommodate the volume of participants. At this event, Emanuela Kucik, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and Africana Studies, emphasized that biased language is consistently shown to be a first symptom of a society moving toward genocide. Dehumanization is the first step to justifying violence, and biased language is just one way in which people work to make each other less than.

Muhlenberg has had at least two incidents of explicitly racially biased language that have been widely discussed on campus in the last year. The Weekly found many of the stories shared at this event illuminating and appreciate the willingness of community members to share their experiences. Still, meaningful action and change has yet to be emphasized in this campus conversation. Some stated attendee takeaways were that policy must be enacted and people of privilege must be willing to stop engaging in harm for things to get better.

This event was optional, and so was presumably largely attended by those students who are already thinking about the power dynamics and harm involved in using biased language — but the people who use slurs and other bias language on our campus likely aren't attending events like this.

Talking about how both implicit and explicit bias are harmful to already marginalized students can be helpful to foster a more inclusive community, but how can we do this if we aren't also addressing recent racially charged incidents? If this event has been in the works for a year, why weren't the impacts of these recent campus discussions assessed? How much does a campus-wide email and an optional dialogue actually do?

We don't know the answers to these questions, but with privilege comes the responsibility to ask what more you can be doing, and we at The Weekly aren't sure if we as a College are doing enough to center the voices of marginalized students and reach those who need to hear messages against hate.

OP/ED POLICIES

EDITORIAL POLICY

In each edition of the newspaper, The Muhlenberg Weekly publishes an unsigned staff editorial written by the senior editors. Any such editorials that appear without a byline represents the majority opinion of the Editorial Board and thus, are the official opinion of The Weekly.

OPINION POLICY

The Muhlenberg Weekly views itself as an open forum for students to voice their opinions on all relevant topics. Opinions expressed in the Op/Ed section of this paper are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Weekly or Muhlenberg College.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It is the policy of The Muhlenberg Weekly to foster relationships with its readership, including through discourse in its Opinion/Editorial section. Therefore, members of the College Community are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor on any topic of interest to Muhlenberg, in direct reference to an article or otherwise. See our website for submission requirements.

GUEST SUBMISSIONS

The Weekly also invites guest opinion submissions if the author believes that more than 250 words are warranted. Individuals looking to submit such an article should contact the Opinion/Editorial editor (bergweeklyoped@gmail.com) or the Editor-in-Chief (weeklyeditor@gmail.com) to discuss the topic. The Weekly does not guarantee publication of guest submissions.

"Good financial health"

By Melissa Reph
Managing Editor

Two weeks ago, ahead of the first Student Government Association (SGA) Town Hall, the Dean of Students Office sent out an email to "Student Organization Leaders and Advisors" that stated point blank that "The College is in good financial health."

I realize that this is meant to assuage any fears of the College being in a financial crisis since the seizure of SGA's $112,000 surplus, but in reality, it has led to more questions, especially when looking at a broader picture.

There have been steady tuition increases over the last few years, with a 3.4% rise in the 2018-2019 academic year. While it may not seem like much, this increase came on the heels of other tuition increases, with The Weekly reporting in 2018 that "between 2010-11 and 2015-16, tuition and fees have increased an average of 3.7 percent each year. Academic years 2017-18, and 2016-17, however, saw a 4.87 percent increase and a 4.8 percent increase respectively, totaling $5,605 in two years."

What this means is that current seniors are paying roughly $7,000 more per year than when they started at 'Berg, which might not seem like much — but as someone who receives financial aid, I know that my aid has not increased to match the rise in tuition, meaning myself and other students who also receive financial aid are paying more out of pocket.

Additionally, in 2018, the College released its Master Plan, which outlined campus improvements over the course of ten years and gave a rough timeline for them to be completed over three different phases.

The Weekly reported that "the first of these phases would be completed in the next two to three years," meaning that current students should be seeing changes and the implementation of this first phase.

While Prosser has indeed been "renovated" or at the least painted and given air conditioning, other parts of this initial phase such as a renovation to the basement of Seegers and groundbreaking for the large scale construction projects — a new academic building on the lawn behind Moyer Hall and an upperclassman dorm where the Village parking lots now stand — have yet to come to fruition. Students have not even been given any follow-up information in regards to a timeline or news about whether or not these projects will be happening at all.

Additionally, there is an ongoing concern among students regarding faculty resources, with departments like English and Media and Communication seeing two professors each retire to be replaced by one new hire. Does this mean that the College is losing four professors only to be replaced by two?

Combined, all of this seems like a lot of meaningless College statistics, but in reality, all revolve heavily around the College's financial well-being. Tuition must be paid in order for the College to remain operational, and tuition has increased steadily since 2011. There must be capital in order to start any major construction, and no construction has begun. There must be funds in order to pay new faculty, and the number of replacements is half that of the loss.

I'm not saying the College is in a financial crisis. I'm just asking what the definition of "good financial health" is.

《白蛇传》

By Shuhong Tang
Contributing Writer

此剧本受中国著名民间传说《白蛇传》启发，并且做出创意式的改编。

S| 1　　时| 白天　　景|天庭

配乐|
人物| 太上老君，许仙，玉兔，侍女
场景镜头^
^太上老君看着镜头
^许仙和白兔挤进镜头，三人看着镜头
^一碗药
玉兔：师父，此为何物？（眨眨眼）
许仙：此物闻起来似乎是甘的，可是颜色却是绚丽的淡红色。
太上老君：你们要小心，切勿打撒了这瓶药。此药是为王母娘娘调制的忘忧水，娘娘近日来日夜思虑导致寝食难安，特来求助我殿，配制调养的药水
玉兔：弟子也听闻此事，前日是玉皇大帝的忌日，天兵们为玉皇大帝做了祭祀的典礼，娘娘站在宫台上晕倒了！
太上老君：大帝与娘娘相伴三十载，必是心灵相犀，触景伤情。
许仙：师父，思虑乃是心病，药石如何医治？
太上老君：此药是助娘娘安眠罢了。
玉兔：究竟情为何物，能叫人如此执着。
太上老君：哈哈你们尚幼，孽情使人魂牵梦萦，迷失方向，脱离正道。倘若潜心修炼，顺应天命，自有缘人配良情。
许仙：（搭着玉兔肩膀）我说妹妹，前几日书阁的公子不是向嫦娥娘娘提亲了吗，说要娶你，你忧情什么。
玉兔：那人太过呆板，不如你幽默，与他在一起，这日子岂不没有笑话了（袖子捂住嘴巴，偷偷笑）许仙：好啊，你竟然笑话我，看我怎么教训你
^许仙追着玉兔，两人绕着池子跑
太上老君：快别胡闹，天色已晚快回家罢，明日辰时你们启程前往竹林摘取草药。
许仙和玉兔：知道了，师父。
^太上老君离开
许仙：小玉不如你今晚来我府上住，那竹林在茗峒城下，离我府上不过几里路。你好久没来，我父亲可想你了。
玉兔：你可还要提那书生的事？
许仙：哈哈哈不提，不提便是，我府上有把好琴，正愁无人把弄。
玉兔：原来意图在此，我正好谱了一新曲..
许仙：（抢答）高山流水，彩云追月，妙哉妙哉，快走吧。
^许仙推着玉兔走，消失在天庭。

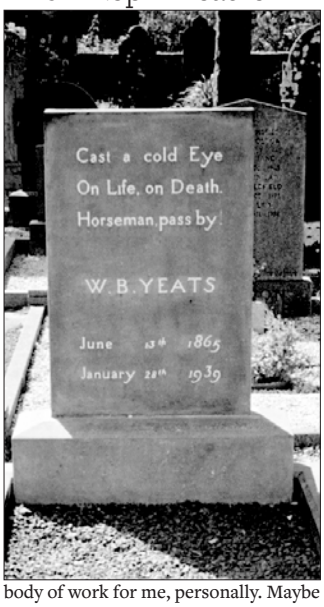
See muhlenbergweekly.com for an English translation of this article!

speaking your language.

I saw Yeats' feet.

A visit to *Lady G* at the Irish Rep Theatre

Jessica Bensimhon
Mole Person



I still don't know how to talk about this, so I guess I'll just start at the beginning. On Sunday, Feb. 23, I took a trip to NYC with my Irish drama and creative writing class to see *Lady G* at the Irish Repertory Theater. If this sentence means relatively little to you, it's possible you might not have ever taken an English class at Muhlenberg and also maybe I'd rather be you than be me. The show is about Irish playwright Lady Gregory, not any other ladies whose names start with G. She wrote a bunch of neat stuff, and I guess a bunch of people decided to go up on stage and read it, which was also neat. It was a good excuse for me and all of my terrible friends to get to eat bodega bagels for lunch.

When we finished eating our bagels with our terrible little mouths, we went to see the show. It was in an itty bitty room that was so far underground it made me feel like one of the Rats of Nimh, but in a good way. We sat in the second row from the front — this will be important for later — and were very excited for it to start because we are very uncool.

The lights went out and it was so dark! I was so scared. Then they came back on and everything was fine. Just like before, except there were people on the stage now. I don't go to the theatre that much, so maybe this is normal? But who am I to say. Anyway, one of the people was a lady who was Gregory. Another one was a man who played a bunch of people (I guess they had budget cuts in the men department?) but mostly he was Yeats. As in Yeats, comma William Butler, the widdle Iwish poet. Again if this means nothing to you, you have no idea how badly *I-wish* I was you!

As in Yeats, comma William Butler, the widdle Iwish poet.

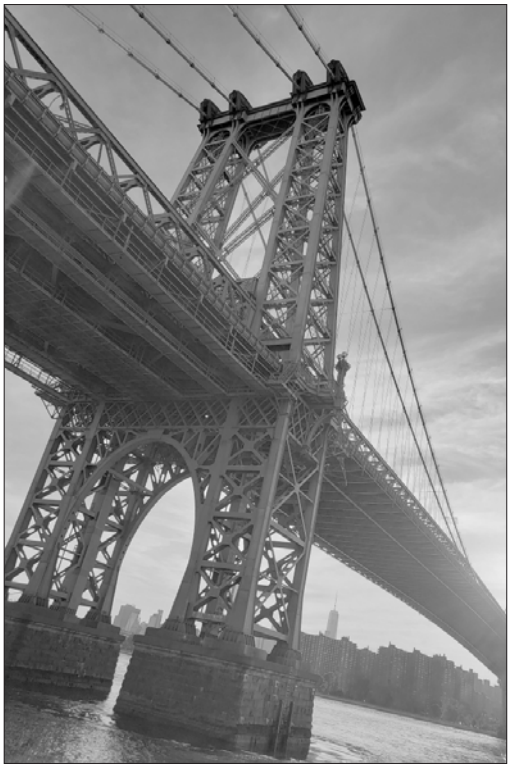
I lost my program (sat on it in the bus and it went in the seat oh no!) so I couldn't tell you what happened in each act even if I wanted to. Geez. For once I'm sure glad my boss (won't name names but rhymes with Crook Smeber) doesn't pay me to do this. I do remember that at intermission they handed out little slices of cake made from a recipe of Lady Gregory's and when Yeats gave me one he touched my hand a little. This might change the entire body of work for me, personally. Maybe I like *At the Hawk's Well* now?

The most interesting and I think the boldest creative choice in the play happened during a staging of Lady Gregory's short play *The Workhouse Ward*, which is about two guys laying down. What was really cool, though, is that they decided to lay down with their feet facing the audience and also not wear any shoes or socks without holes in them. That's right. I saw all ten of William Butler Yeats' whole entire toes, and they were so close to my face. You know, now that I'm writing about it, the more I realize I don't really want to talk about it. The entire cast of *Lady G* was talented, so talented and so passionate and I had such a blast seeing such phenomenal actors and crew bring the life and works of such a phenomenal woman to the stage. I feel incredibly lucky to have been part of the audience that afternoon, and when I went back up the stairs of the Irish Rep into the sun I knew that my long journey on the bus had been well worth it, because I got to eat a bagel and a little slice of cake and most of all I got to see *Lady G*.

But just in case you were wondering: roughly size eleven, with soles as tender as the day he was probably born.

My Brooklyn

By Mustafa Hall
Op/Ed Editor



My body was bred in an environment of silence.

For as long as I remember, this deafening silence was a lullaby that my ears listened to and a tune that my soul craved.

I knew nothing else.

When escaping the heavy orange bricks that make up my apartment, peace fills me. Paradise soon follows in its footsteps.

When escaping, the void left in me, which was hand dug by the ones that I love, becomes filled.

Filled with laughter from the ones that truly see me.

Filled with the smell of my Brooklyn air.

MY Brooklyn.

As I walk through the borough that I love, I forget the pollution in my mind and body that I spent so long living off of.

Like a drug.

I walk to the pier to remember what it feels like to be free. To get out of my head and allow my body to be swallowed by the sound of the waves dancing.

I walk to the train station and I grant the screaming and growling of the train's wheels to course through my veins. It's a reminder to me that silence, the silence that I learned to digest, is a poison.

My neighborhood defines me. It hardened me while softening me at the same time.

It's filled to the brim with concrete and poverty and is saturated with gentrification.

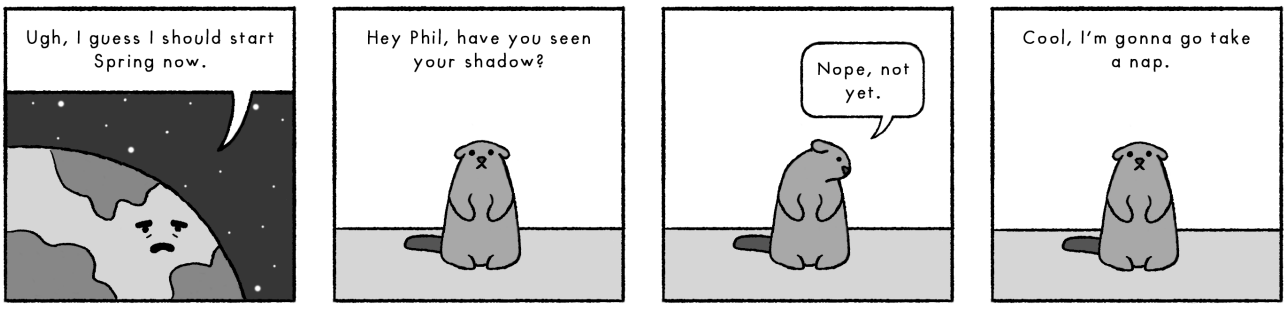
Soon, my paradise is turned into a memory and I head home.

My "home" is one of many complexities. In some sense, it's the embodiment of resilience. The thing that encompasses a multitude of triumphs.

The heavy orange bricks that make up my apartment are a part of me, but they are an element that I'm learning to reject.

SPRINGTIME

By Nicolas Calá



Problems drown the LSC pool

Despite irregular hours and small fixes, pool's obvious potential rises to the surface

By Alex Blum
Co-Sports Editor

In the depths of the Life Sports Center (LSC) lies the unknown and underutilized space known as the Muhlenberg swimming pool. In clear view from the upstairs level of the LSC's gym, one can see the few people that come to swim laps each day and the lifeguards that keep watch from their designated posts. However, while the space may be a great place to get a workout in, the Muhlenberg student body is relatively unaware of its presence.

With sporadic hours during the weekday, the Muhlenberg pool area is rather inaccessible. With little time dedicated to open swim — only a short one-hour timeframe — the Muhlenberg community is severely limited in the time one can take advantage of the pool facilities. No one knows the hardships of planning and scheduling times to go to the pool more than Madeleine Kemo '22, former president of the Swim Club.

"There aren't a lot of options for open swim hours."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Office of Communications

The college swimming pool is located in the Life Sports Center.

"There aren't a lot of options for open swim hours," Kemo said plainly. In addition to the inopportune times of open swim, much of the pool time relies upon other outside organizations. "The hours being dependent on other teams from club organizations makes it difficult for people who want to swim to find good times, and so the limited options combined with the number of people I needed to contact to coordinate group meetings made it very difficult to have everyone in the swim club meet at the same time," she added.

In addition to the struggles of timing, Muhlenberg's pool itself prevents the creation of an official swim team. As Kemo said, the current pool would only put Muhlenberg at "a severe disadvantage." This is due to the fact that "our pool is not regulation size, so not only would we not be able to host meets, we would also be at a disadvantage in other pools ... [since] we would have been training for a different distance," Kemo explained. Muhlenberg's pool also lacks the essential starting blocks and timing pads needed for competitive swimming.

Kemo's experiences as the Swim Club president speak loudly to the unfortunate issues of the Muhlenberg pool. However, Kemo is not the only one who understands these problems; members of Muhlenberg's faculty do as well. For Sharon Albert of Muhlenberg's religion studies department, this is something about which she is extremely passionate.

Having started to swim seriously when she was training for a marathon, Albert loves the pool. "Swimming is an incredibly holistic fitness activity. It provides both aerobic and anaerobic exercise, has many health benefits and a relatively low risk of injuries," Albert said.

"Although we don't all know each other, there are about 30 of us who are in regular conversation about these issues."

"On days when I'm not up to a hard workout, swimming can even be a meditative experience," she added.

Albert acknowledges the amazing pool at Muhlenberg, but at the same time, she is all too aware of its issues. Like Kemo, Albert understands that "the pool is not open nearly enough, and even the fairly limited scheduled hours tend to be irregular."

With better hours, Albert believes that the pool area will without a doubt become a more utilized space. "In fact, this fall the pool was open Monday through Friday 6:30-8:00 a.m., the first time in my memory that there were as many hours in the morning and as consistent. As people found out that the pool was open consistently, more and more people started using it, and by the end of the semester, we were often needing to share lanes," she explained.

Albert is not the only faculty member who is passionate about these problems and constantly uses the facilities. "There are a number of faculty and staff who use the pool as regularly as they can. Although we don't all know each other, there are about 30 of us who are in regular conversation about these issues," Albert said.

Following the reduction of pool hours from five days a week in the fall to zero in the spring, Albert and many others vocalized their frustrations to the athletic department leadership. While some changes were made, budgeting was a main issue.

Both Kemo and Albert have ideas for the ways in which the school can fix these problems that currently exist at the LSC pool.

"I'd love to see the College position the pool as a health and wellness resource for faculty, staff and students and adjust budgeting lines accordingly so that the choice doesn't become student athletes or the pool, but we find money for both," said Albert. "I can also imagine ways in which the pool might become an income-generator for the College. For instance, we could open it up to local alumni or community members for a fee," she continued.

"I think that longer times for open swim would be beneficial for swimmers to get in a full workout without having to skip certain exercises they want to do because of time restrictions. I also think that the location of the pool could be advertised more," said Kemo.

While the Muhlenberg pool may be rather unknown to the community-at-large, the space is flooded with potential. From injury recovery for student athletes to traditional exercise to meditative practices, the swimming pool can present a plethora of opportunities. The next step is to effectively publicize and open up those worthwhile opportunities to the College and Allentown communities as a whole.

from **Wrestling** page 12

with the program, Sherman enthusiastically noted that he has learned many life lessons through wrestling as a result of the hard work he has put toward the sport. "I've learned that anyone can be anything. It's a matter of how many hours you're willing to put in, how much you're willing to sacrifice in order to achieve your goals."

"Our mindset is to win everything, treat every match like it's the last of the season."

Sherman's own commitment and devotion can be seen in the long way the team has come over his time as a member. "We built a nationally-ranked program in just four years with a handful of guys, all of whom shared this vision," Sherman said. "Not everyone is going to like you or believe in you or support you. Put your head down and prove them wrong."

Even though the wrestlers employ a collective mentality, their individual ambitions to be the best wrestlers they can be plays a role in the success they have had this year. "My goal is to be an All-American, and this can put me just one more step closer to accomplishing that," Schwartz added.

Additionally, McLean and the rest of his staff have provided the wrestlers with the support and motivation they need to play at their finest. "The coaching staff has kept reminding us just how good we are and how good we have been all year, and that we have been provided with yet another opportunity to make a statement," Schwartz commented.

Men's basketball comes away with first round vicotry in C.C. tournament

By Declan Walkush
Staff Writer

The Muhlenberg men's basketball team posted a stellar regular season record of 18-7, their best record since the 2001-02 season. With an in-conference record of 11-7, the Mules qualified for the Centennial Conference tournament for the first time since the 2013-14 season. The Mules are the third seed heading into the conference tournament behind an undefeated Swarthmore team that sits atop the DIII national rankings and a tenth-place, nationally-ranked Johns Hopkins team.

The Muhlenberg roster is relatively young, with 14 out of 17 players being underclassmen. Daniel Gaines '22, who was recently named the Lehigh Valley Small Colleges Men's Basketball Player of the Year by a local media organization, noted the young team's emphasis on building chemistry and momentum with every outing. "I think the big difference between last season and this season is the amount of chemistry we have as a team. Getting the experience of a full season was also important for a lot of guys, especially because of how young of a team we have," said Gaines.

The Muhlenberg men are led by Kevin Hopkins, who first took over head coaching duties during the 2017-18 season. Since Hopkins's tenure began, the Mules have improved steadily each season. When asked what adjustments the team has made to find their stride in the conference this year, Hopkins responded, "To be honest, we have not made many major adjustments this year. Guys have just continued to grow and improve both individually and as a group. We have made a couple minor changes offensively, but the core principles of our playing style have stayed consistent each year that I have been at Muhlenberg." The third-year coach continued, saying, "We talk to our team about continually trying to raise the standards of what is unacceptable, acceptable or exceptional as the season progresses and year-to-year as the team continues to grow."

The raised standards have certainly made a difference for the Mules, who, according to Gaines, continue to push each other in practices. "I think a lot of the freshmen have come in and pushed everyone to practice and play harder. Also, understanding how important each practice and lift is has contributed to the increased success from last year," he said.

The emphasis placed on process seems to be an important one for the team. This long-term focus on improvement over time is one of the biggest messages being relayed to the team by the coaching staff according to Matthew Gnias '20. "[The team values] process over results, where even though the results of a certain situation may not be in our favor, as long as it was the correct process, we are on the right track to success," Gnias explained.

For every member on the team, this is their first experience with the Centennial Conference tournament. Hopkins is insistent that the team plays true to themselves and continues to enjoy the process, saying, "The main messages for the team will be to enjoy the experience of hosting a home playoff game and to continue to compete and play our brand of basketball. We have talked a lot this year about trying to play a full 40 minutes of Muhlenberg basketball, and so we will continue to focus on that."

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics
Daniel Gaines '22 moves up the floor against Washington College earlier in the 2020 season.

The Mules won their first game of the 2020 Centennial Conference tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 25 with a dominant 84-72 win over Washington College. Scoring was lead for the team by Gaines and Gnias posting 21 and 18 points respectively as the team went 52.4% from beyond the 3-point arch. The Mules will look to continue the process and advance in the conference tournament, playing their semifinal game against Swarthmore College on Friday, Feb. 28 in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Women's basketball just miss playoffs

After dropping the season finale, the squad now turns their attention to next season

By Joshua Lederman
Senior Staff Writer

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the Muhlenberg women's basketball team traveled to Gettysburg to play their final game of the season. A win earlier in the week against Bryn Mawr put them in a three-way tie with Swarthmore and Franklin & Marshall for fifth place in the Centennial Conference standings. A win at Gettysburg meant that the Mules would clinch a Conference playoff berth for the 16th straight year. However, the Mules faced no easy task, as Gettysburg had received votes in the D3Hoops.com Top 25 poll and had a record of 20-4 coming into the season finale.

After a high-scoring first quarter in which the Mules found themselves down by just one point, the Bullets dominated the second quarter, extending their lead to ten at halftime. The Bullets continued their dominant play into the third quarter, and while the Mules put up a valiant comeback afterwards in the fourth quarter, they fell 72-60 and missed the Centennial Conference Playoffs for the first time in 15 years. Despite not clinching a playoff berth, head coach Ron Rohn credits the resilience of his team after their slow start before the new year. "After a 2-7 start, the team responded after the Christmas break with a nice 8-2 run," Rohn said. "That showed a lot of determination from our team. They did not hang their heads, kept working and remained positive. Those are great qualities, and it put us back in the play-off race. Our seniors deserve a good deal of the credit ... they kept the team working hard and together and never gave up."

For forward Margaux Eripret '22, seeing the team's improvement over the course of the season builds great excitement for a young team that hopes to take a big step forward next year. "I think my biggest takeaway from this season is the potential that this team has," said Eripret. "We had spurts where we were playing really good team basketball, which was so great to see, and it was fun to play. Our team is pretty young, and we now have another season under our belts, and with experience comes confidence, which is important for a team to be successful."

Looking ahead to next season, the Mules return five of their six top scorers from this past season, which is pivotal for a squad looking to improve on the offensive end. Despite losing senior leadership, the Mules will come back to the court with plenty of experience as eight players will return having played in at least 20 games last season. Rohn believes that the individual talent returning to the team next year plus an improved offense will propel the Mules to a Centennial Conference Championship and an NCAA Tournament berth.

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics
The ladies of Muhlenberg basketball may not have made the playoffs, but they have high hopes for 2020-2021.

"Our goals will be to win the Centennial Conference Championship and then make a run in the NCAA Tournament," said Rohn. "I believe we will have the individual talent to achieve those goals, and if our team works together as is our tradition, then we could have a terrific season. Our defense was strong all year, but it took half the season this year to get the offense clicking. I think next year, the offense will really take off, which will make us a tough team to handle."

In order to achieve that goal, Eripret emphasizes the need to improve during the off-season. "The ultimate goal is obviously to get ourselves back into the playoffs and win a championship, but it starts now," said Eripret. "We can always work on getting stronger, our fundamentals, our shooting and our conditioning."

She also recognizes that the team must play consistent basketball throughout the season in order to reach the top of the Centennial Conference standings. "I think the area we need to improve the most is our consistency. Once we consistently play well and play together, I think we'll be hard to stop," Eripret continued.

While the regular season doesn't tip-off until November, the Mules are already looking forward to next season, hoping to make a deep run in postseason play with an improved group of returning players. Rohn exclaims, "I think the young players took tremendous steps forward this year, so if they keep moving in that direction and apply the lessons they have learned from our graduating senior class, then we will not just make the playoffs, but once again be one of the teams to beat in February and March. I can't wait to get started on that journey."

THE MUHLENBERG WEEKLY / SPORTS

Wrestling sets sights on Iowa

Photo Courtesy of Muhlenberg Athletics

Austin Sherman '20 understands the time is coming to pass the torch to the future of 'Berg Wrestling.

Prior to passing the torch, Berg's veteran wrestlers are ready to continue fighting for respect

By Noah Brill
Senior Staff Writer

This coming weekend, the Muhlenberg wrestling team is slated to cap off what has been a marvelous season in Ithaca, N.Y., where they will participate in the NCAA Mideast Regional Tournament on Feb. 29 and Mar. 1. The Mules sit at an impressive 18-4 overall mark and finished conference play with a sterling 6-0 record. This year has seen the team continue to implement its "all for one, one for all" mindset with tremendous success, and the players, who have grown individually in various areas, seem to motivate one another to become better themselves. This is particularly true of many of the second-year wrestlers, whose growth this season has been catalyzed in part by the team's established veterans. These are prime factors for why head coach Jason McLean '01 was recently named the Centennial Conference's Coach of the Year.

The team will face a significant test this weekend and has a chance to shape the narrative that will be told about this season, a year that will surely be regarded as one of the best in Muhlenberg history. However, the group is not setting their sights merely on the regional round, as they hope to perform well enough to send at least one player to the NCAA Tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that will take place from Mar. 11-13. For the graduating seniors, the next few weeks provide an opportunity for them to end their collegiate careers on a high note, something that would be a testament to all the hard work they have put in over the last four seasons. "Our mindset is to win everything; treat every match like it's the last of the season. We will continue our success by sending guys to Iowa," Dylan Schwartz '20 said.

> **"We built a nationally ranked program in just four years, with a handful of guys, all of whom shared this vision. Not everyone is going to like you, or believe in you, or support you. Put your head down and prove them wrong."**

In spite of their standing within the group's hierarchy, the seniors seem to be consciously stepping aside, giving the younger players an opportunity to enjoy the limelight. "It's almost time to pass the torch to our young, hardworking guys like [Luca] Colestock ['22] and hope they continue this upward trend," Austin Sherman '20 said.

Upon reflection on his time

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Coming up this week in SPORTS
Feb. 29 - Mar. 1

Men's Lacrosse
Muhlenberg vs Susquehanna
Saturday, Feb. 29 @ 3:00 p.m.
Selinsgrove, Pa.

Women's Tennis
Muhlenberg vs Alvernia
Saturday, Feb. 29 @ 3:00 p.m.
Lake Nona, Fla.

Baseball
Muhlenberg vs Neumann
Sunday, Mar. 1 @ 9:30 a.m.
Auburndale, Fla.

Softball
Muhlenberg vs Eastern Mennonite
Sunday, March. 1 @ 11:30 a.m.
NMB Sports Complex - Field 3